

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

HARRY M. AND MARGARET B. TINKCOM

GRANT MILES SIMON

THE GERMAN TOWNSHIP Survey . . . the GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL Society

A MAP

OF PART OF THE

GERMAN TOWNSHIP

IN THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA

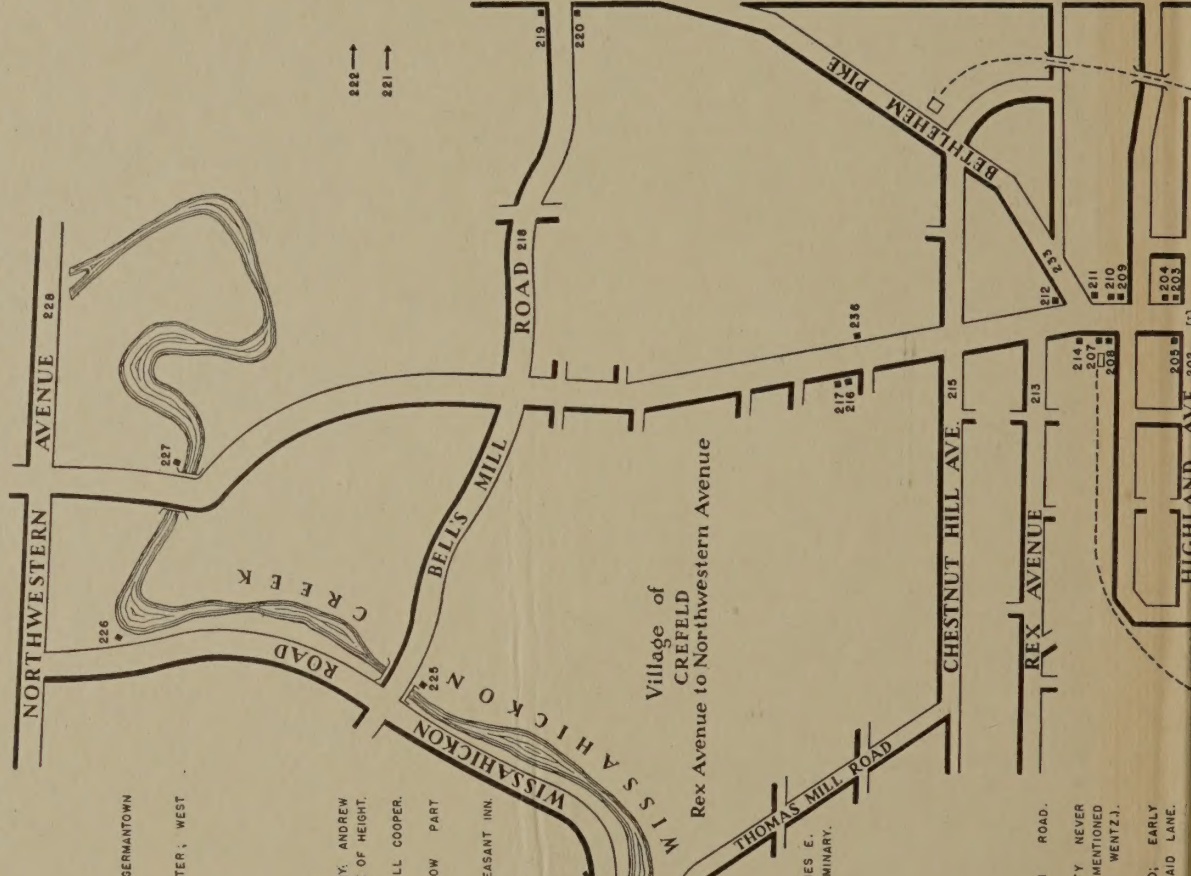
with reference to

HISTORIC BUILDINGS and SITES



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- 148 NUMBER ON AVENUE 6700 S FED.; HOUSE OWNED BY GEORGE B. WOOD; N.W. CORNER GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND WESTVIEW STREET.
- 149 S "PHIL-ELLEN"; ANTE-BELLUM; ESTATE OF G.W. CARPENTER; WEST OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AT CARPENTER'S LANE.
- 150 6749 S COL.; OWNED BY GEORGE HESSER IN 1793.
- 151 6843 B COL.; BUILT BY A. GORGAS, PAUL FAMILY, 1813-1915.
- 152 6900 S TRELLINGER'S LANE; NOW CARPENTER STREET.
- 153 6900 S (N.D.); FARMER'S AND DRIVER'S HOTEL; ONCE OWNED BY ANDREW TRELLINGER; HOUSE ALSO CALLED "SHOT TOWER" BECAUSE OF HEIGHT.
- 154 6901 B FED.; BUILT BY JOSEPH GORGAS; LATER HOUSE OF COLIN CAMPBELL COOPER.
- 155 6926 B (N.D.) BUILT BY WILLIAM LIEBERT, A BOOKBINDER; NOW PART OF LUTHERAN HOME.
- 156 7127 B (N.D.); ONCE OWNED BY T.H. CARMICHAEL; NOW MT. PLEASANT INN.
- 157 7141 B.S. FED.; REMODELED AS STORE CA. 1914.
- 158 7142 B FED.; SEBASTIAN "UNRUH", 1781
- 159 7149 B FED.
- 160 7238 S FED.; GORGAS HOUSE AND BARN, (1738-7240); DATE ON BARN, 1809.
- 161 S "MT. AIRY"; COL.; BUILT BY WM. ALLEN; LATER AMERICAN CLASSICAL AND MILITARY INSTITUTE; EAST SIDE GERMANTOWN AVE. AT ALLEN'S LA
- 162 7300 S ALLEN'S LANE; LIVESLEY ROAD
- 163 7331 B FED.; BUILT BY JOSEPH MILLER; LATER OWNED BY JAMES E. GOWEN, NOW PROPERTY OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.
- 164 S ANTE-BELLUM, WHITE SWAN HOTEL; OPP. MT. AIRY AVENUE.
- 165 7400 S MILLER'S LANE; NOW GOWEN AVENUE.
- 166 7402 B FED.
- 167 7406 B FED.
- 168 7413 B FED.; JAMES GOWEN, 1839-50.
- 169 7700 S MERMAID LANE, 1802; NINE MILE ROAD; LIME KILN ROAD.
- 170 7701 S COL.; KNOWN AS YEAKEL LOG CABIN, ALTHOUGH PROPERTY NEVER OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER YEAKEL (LOG HOUSE FIRST MENTIONED IN DEED DATED 1801, DECKED KEYSER TO JOHN WENTZ).
- 171 B FED.; MERMAID INN; MARTIN PAINTER FIRST LANDLORD; EARLY BUILDING DEMOLISHED, 1913, GERMANTOWN AVENUE AT MERMAID LANE.



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- 199 8433 B COL.; SIGN OF THE SWAN, LANDLORD JOHN SHEPPARD, 1745; ALSO KNOWN AS "BONNY JOCKEY" CA. 1783; AND STAG INN, 1840.
- 200 8437 S (N.D.); OWNED BY ELIZABETH DETWILER, CA. 1830
- 201 S COL.; ANDERSON STREET NEAR GRAVER'S LANE; OLDER PART PROBABLY BUILT 1717, BY JOHN STREEPER; ADDITION BUILT, 1823 BY JOHN JACOBY.
- 202 8500 S HIGHLAND AVENUE; SPRUCE MILL ROAD, 1737; BARGE'S MILL ROAD TO 1784; THOMAS' MILL ROAD; COTTAGE STREET; WEST HIGHLAND AVENUE OPENED AFTER 1889.
- 203 8501 B ANTE-BELLUM; PRESENT BUILDING ERECTED BY JACOB PETERS AFTER 1821; HENRY GRESS HAD INN ON THIS SITE EARLIER, LATER KNOWN AS EAGLE HOTEL; AN IMPORTANT STAGE STOP.
- 204 S COL.; SHIP HOUSE; LAND OWNED, 1761 BY JACOB HALL; LATER BY WIGARD MILLER; ABOVE HIGHLAND AVE.
- 205 8502 S COL.; BARGE HOUSE; PRINTING OFFICE OF NICHOLAS HASSELBACH, 1764; AND POSSIBLY SAMUEL SOWER, 1790.
- 206 S COL.; DONAT'S HOTEL, 1842, A WAGON OR TEAMSTER'S HOTEL, OWNED BY LEVI REX, 1800, S.W. COR. HIGHLAND AVE.
- 207 S COL.; YEAKEL-SCHULTZ HOUSE; LAND PURCHASED BY CHRISTOPHER YEAKEL AND REMAINED IN FAMILY UNTIL CA. 1880; NOW OWNED BY P.R.R.
- 208 8602 S FED.; TWO STORY HOUSE, OWNED BY JOHN SCHULTZ.
- 209 8609 B COL.; ARTMAN-MILLER HOUSE; LOWER PORTION PROBABLY BUILT BY MARTIN ARTMAN CA. 1776; UPPER PART ADDED LATER BY ANDREW ARTMAN; LATER PROPERTY OF ADAM MILLER; (18607-8609)
- 210 8617 B FED.; PURCHASED FROM JOHN MILLER BY JOHN KITTINGER, 1798, NOW KNOWN AS "HILL HOUSE".
- 211 B ANTE-BELLUM, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH; CONGREGATION ORGANIZED, 1834; CHURCH DEDICATED, 1835; REBUILT AND ENLARGED, 1857 AND 1874, BETHLEHEM PIKE.
- 212 8701 S (N.D.); MAPLE LAWN INN OR "THE DUSTPAN"; ON SITE OF STORE KEPT BY MATTHIAS BUSH; WAS TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF HOWE IN DECEMBER, 1777
- 213 8700 S REX AVE., OPENED AFTER 1850; WASHINGTON LANE; CHURCH LANE; PRESBYTERIAN LANE
- 214 S COL.; EDWARD SCULL'S INN, CA. 1759; KEPT BY HENRY ANTES, 1759-73; LATER KNOWN AS GENERAL JACKSON HOTEL AND TITLOW HOTEL
- 215 8800 S CHESTNUT HILL AVENUE, OPENED 1833.



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COMPILED BY
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AND
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ABBREVIATIONS

SETTLEMENT.	SETTLEMENT, TO 1700
COL.	COLONIAL, 1700-1783
FED.	FEDERAL, 1783-1812
ANTE-BELLUM	ANTE-BELLUM, 1812-1861
EXP.	EXPANSION, 1861-1900
B.	EXISTING BUILDING
S.	SITE
BS.	MODERN BUILDING ON HISTORIC SITE

169 7702 S MERMAID LANE 1802; RINE MILE ROAD, LIME MILN 2648
BUILDING DEMOLISHED, 1913; GERMANTOWN AVENUE AT MERMAID LANE.

170 7701 S COL.; KNOWN AS YEAKEL LOG CABIN, ALTHOUGH PROPERTY NEVER OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER YEAKEL (LOG HOUSE FIRST MENTIONED IN DEED DATED 1801; DERRICK KEYSER TO JOHN WENTZ).

171 8 FED.; MERMAID INN, MARTIN PAINTER FIRST LANDLORD; EARLY BUILDING DEMOLISHED, 1913; GERMANTOWN AVENUE AT MERMAID LANE.

172 7801 B FED.; OWNED BY CORNELIUS ROOP, 1804; GREATLY ALTERED.

173 7900 S SPRINGFIELD AVENUE; CRESHEIM ROAD, 1730; KERPER'S LANE.

174 7921 B FED.; MELCHIOR NEWMAN.

175 7916 S (N.D.); PURCHASED BY ROBERT WORRELL, 1852.

176 7945 S FED.; TWO AND ONE HALF STORY HOUSE; DEMOLISHED, CA. 1830.

177 8000 S WILLOW GROVE AVENUE; EAST SIDE OPENED CA. 1863; WEST LATER.

178 8002 B ANTE-BELLUM, TWO STORY, ONE GABLE HOUSE; NO KNOWN HISTORY.

179 8031 B COL.; ABRAHAM REX'S STORE; ADDITION BUILT, 1818; (8031-8033).

180 8040 S (N.D.); OWNED BY DANIEL KERPER, 1831.

181 8100 S REX LANE, 1776; LATER ABINGTON AVENUE.

182 8121 S COL.; OWNED BY JOSEPH AND WILLIAM REX; (8121-8123).

183 8132 B FED.; KNOWN AS THE PETERS' HOUSE; PROPERTY OWNED BY JOHN PETERS, 1784; (8132-8134).

184 8200 S HARTWELL AVENUE, CA. 1850; PAPER MILL ROAD, 1742; PAUL'S MILL ROAD, 1766; WEISS MILL ROAD, 1812.

185 8200 B COL.; OWNED FIRST BY CHRISTOPHER OTTINGER SR., LATER BY KERPER FAMILY; HOUSE MUCH ALTERED.

186 8217 B ANTE-BELLUM; PUBLIC HALL ERECTED BY CHARLES WEBER; THIRD FLOOR OCCUPIED BY HIRAM LODGE NO. 81, F. AND A.M., ONE OF THE OLDEST IN THE COUNTRY.

187 8220 B COL.; DETWILER HOUSE; BUILT BY JACOB SWANK.

188 8222 B COL.; BUILT BY JACOB SWANK IN 1760. THIS HOUSE AND ALSO 8220 BECAME THE PROPERTY OF FREDRICK DETWILER.

189 8223 S FED.; GOLD'S HOTEL, FORMERLY GRAVER'S, KLINE'S, AND THE HART TAVERN, ALSO CHESTNUT HILL INN, A TEAMSTER'S HOTEL.

190 8226 B COL.; DETWILER.

191A 8314 B FED.; JACOB KERPER, 1797.

191B 8316 B FED.; JACOB KERPER, 1797, JACOB STALLMAN, 1831.

192 8317 S (N.D.); DR. HENRY LENTZ PURCHASED HOUSE FROM JOHN JACOBY, CA. 1820.

193 8325 B ANTE-BELLUM; BUILT BY DR. EDWARD JACOBY.

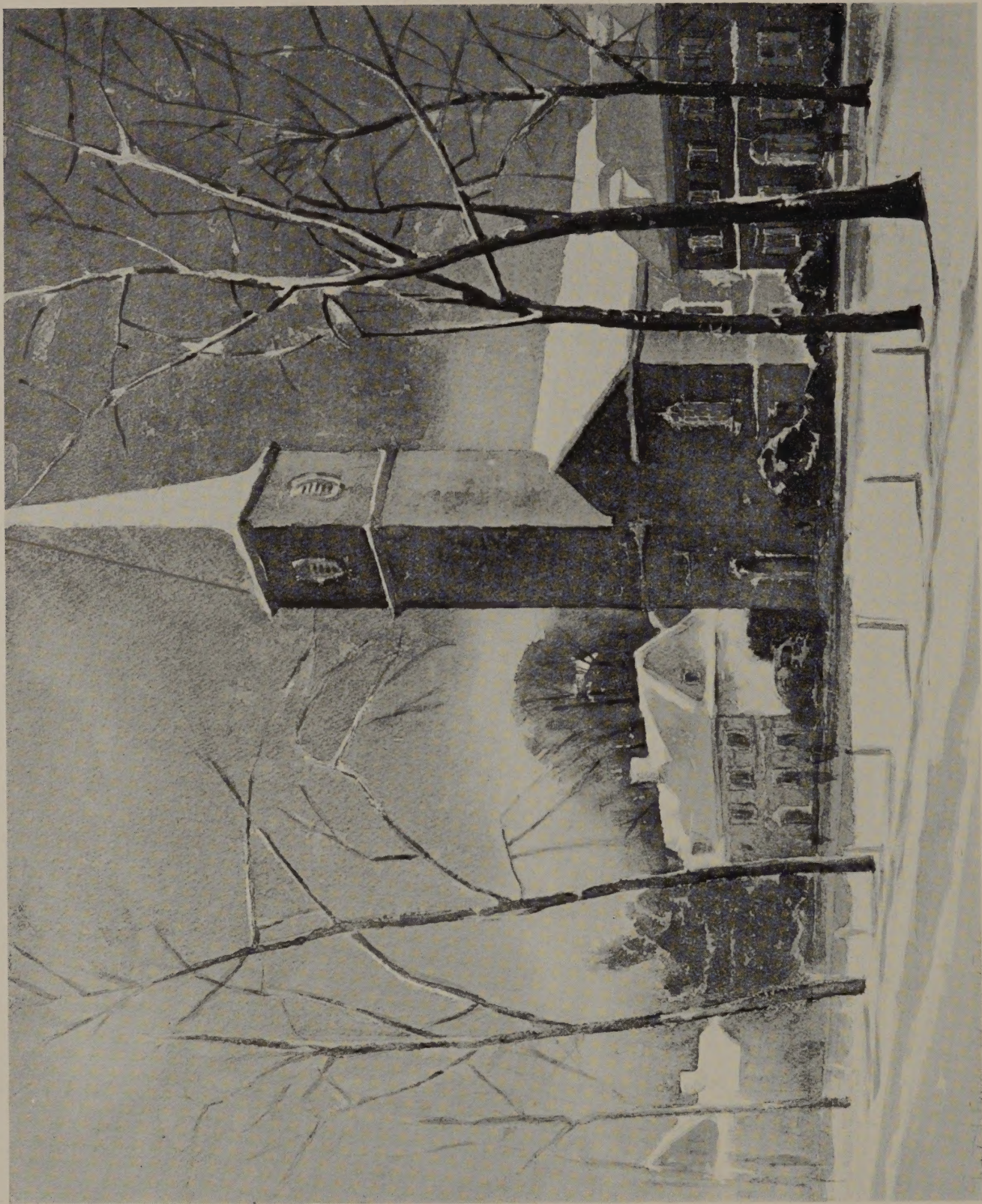
194 8327 B FED.; BUILT BY WIGARD JACOBY.

195 8331 B ANTE-BELLUM, BUILT BY DR. EDWARD JACOBY.

196 8400 S GRAVER'S LANE; EAST OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE CALLED STREETER'S LANE; SLAUGHTER (SCHLATTER'S) LANE, 1760-90; JACOBY'S LANE, 1790; GRAVER'S LANE, AFTER 1800; WEST OF GERMANTOWN AVE. TIBBEN'S LANE; SWITZER'S LANE; MAGOFFIN'S LANE; SHERIDAN'S LANE, 1833; UNION AVENUE.

197 8419 B FED.; HOME OF CHARLES REDHEFFER, BUILDER OF PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE; LATER BY JACOB MAAS WHO KEPT GROCERY STORE HERE. NOW OWNED BY CHESTNUT HILL COMMUNITY CENTER.

198 8428 B (N.D.); BOYHOOD HOME OF JOHN G. JOHNSON.



THE MARKET SQUARE. From a water color by Grant Miles Simon.

HISTORIC GERMANTOWN

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HISTORIC GERMANTOWN
From the Founding to the Early Part of the
Nineteenth Century
A Survey of the German Township

HARRY M. AND MARGARET B. TINKCOM,
GRANT MILES SIMON, F.A.I.A.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
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PREFACE

This history of Germantown and survey of its architecture is published to aid in a program to save buildings of the area which should be preserved, and to make them available for appropriate use in the life of the community.

Over the years the efforts of a few individuals have saved many structures long famous in Germantown history. Stenton and Loudoun are owned by the City, the Rittenhouse group by the Fairmount Park Commission. The Johnson House, Grumblethorpe, and Upsala are owned by private groups, the Chew House and Wyck by families identified with those historic houses for generations. Other houses that are less well known are owned and preserved by individuals conscious of their historic and cultural worth.¹

But many notable structures are gone forever. For one reason or another their owners allowed economic pressure to exact its toll. Scores of the fine old houses now standing along Germantown Road may be sacrificed any day to the demands of commerce. Further loss can be avoided if we take heed. There must at long last be a broad and whole-hearted effort to do what should have been done decades ago.

The Philadelphia Historic Buildings Committee will assume the responsibility for preserving and restoring, not only in Germantown but elsewhere in Philadelphia, all ancient buildings which because of their historical and architectural values are deemed worthy of preservation. Interested persons, public bodies, and private organizations have helped to create this committee and to formulate its program. Business groups, members of various professions, and foundations will be asked to cooperate with it.

If legislation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is necessary to empower the Mayor and Council of Philadelphia to enact necessary laws, steps will be taken to secure this legislation. There is a precedent for such legislation. In New Orleans that part of the old city identified with the French and Spanish occupation has been preserved by the Vieux Carré Commission created by city ordinance. The Commission has the power to protect ancient structures from destruction and to prevent any exterior alteration which would impair their distinctive character. It may also insist that new structures in the area conform to the Commission's requirements as to appearance, color, texture of materials and the architectural design of the exterior.

Other communities in the South have taken similar action. In Charleston, South Carolina, an ordinance enacted in 1924 created a Board of Architectural Re-

view with power to pass upon the appropriateness of the architectural features of all buildings erected, reconstructed, altered, restored, or used in Old and Historic Charleston, wherever such features are visible from a public street or way. Alexandria, Virginia, in 1946, Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1947, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1948, adopted zoning ordinances creating historic districts and giving Boards of Architectural Review or of Zoning Appeal powers quite similar to those exercised by the Charleston commission. In 1951 Niagara Falls, New York, adopted a zoning ordinance creating a "Scenic Protective Area."

The Survey of Germantown was initiated in the fall of 1951 and largely completed under the leadership of Leighton P. Stradley, then President of the Germantown Historical Society. During Mr. Stradley's recent illness, the Society has carried on his work. The generosity of Messrs. James G. Wynn, Charles L. Horn, and Ralph Clark, directors of the Olin Foundation, made it possible for the Germantown Historical Society to undertake the survey.

The cooperation of the City Planning Commission, of the Department of Public Works of the City of Philadelphia, of the Fairmount Park Commission, the assistance of Mr. Earle H. Barber and the kindly advice of Judge Edwin O. Lewis have made the completion of the study much easier. The Greater Philadelphia Movement has supported the larger purposes of this survey, and Mr. H. A. Batten has been generous with his constructive suggestions regarding its future use.

In the preparation of this manuscript, photographs were received through the courtesy of Mr. Edward W. Hocker, Librarian of the Germantown Historical Society, and of Miss Virginia Daiker, Acting Reference Librarian, Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The photographs dated 1952 were made by members of the Survey staff; the photographs by John Bullock and Thomas Shoemaker were taken between 1895 and 1920. The several maps, by Holme, Scull, and others, are photostatic copies of the originals in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Many other photographs in addition to those appearing in the book are on file at the Germantown Historical Society.

Mr. R. Norris Williams, 2nd, Director of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, placed the resources of that Society at our disposal. Mr. William H. West, President of the Commonwealth Title Company of Philadelphia, has had prepared briefs of title to some eighty-five properties, the subjects of the survey. These also are available for study in the library of the Germantown Historical Society.

Dr. Roy Franklin Nichols, Professor of History and Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Penn-

¹ Surveys of some of these were made by the Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934-1935. The pertinent data, including some three hundred photographs, were reproduced from the Pictorial Archives in the Library of Congress and are now available in the library of the Germantown Historical Society.

sylvania, and Dr. Edward M. Riley, formerly Chief Park Historian, The Independence National Historical Park Project, reviewed the manuscript. The counsel of Mr. Frederick L. Rath, Director of the National Trust, of Mr. Albert Simons, F.A.I.A., of the Charleston Foundation, and of Mr. Arthur Feitel, F.A.I.A., of the Vieux Carré Commission of New Orleans, has been invaluable. Messrs. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., George Clarence Johnson of the Upsala Foundation, Sydney E. Martin, F.A.I.A., Charles E. Peterson, Resident Architect of the Independence National Historical Park Project, and the late Joseph Patterson Sims, F.A.I.A., in their capacity as a committee of architects, have given generously of their time in the solution of the problems inherent in such a study.

In various stages of the work, particularly in bibliographical matters, we have been aided by Mrs. Kath-

ryn Turner, Mr. Frederick Binder, who surveyed the maps for us, and by Mr. Donald G. Brownlow, who tendered some views on the Battle of Germantown. Our many thanks to them, and to Mr. Leslie Byrnes, for the use of material in his excellent study of Market Square, done in course at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Margaret Tinkcom not only had a leading part in the preparation of the historical and bibliographical sections but also collaborated with Mr. Grant Simon in writing the reports on the surveys of the houses in the architectural section.

The generous assistance of the American Philosophical Society in publishing this study must be acknowledged with gratitude.

HAROLD D. SAYLOR, President,
Germantown Historical Society

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PART I. THE HISTORY

HARRY M. AND MARGARET B. TINKCOM

1. A FERTILE GROUND

There is something different about Germantown. This impression, received by any casual but observant visitor to the area, is strengthened as he travels northward from the Reading Railroad's Station at Wayne Junction along Germantown Avenue. By the time that he reaches Chestnut Hill, he will realize that he has seen something unusual, not only in a city noted for its historic interest, but in the United States as a whole. Here, side by side, dwell the eighteenth and the twentieth centuries: gas stations erected yesterday stand in the shadow of houses more than two hundred years old; streets strident with traffic border gardens still retaining some of their eighteenth-century symmetry.

The number of old buildings is surprisingly large, and, although crowded and jostled by an overweening modernity, they give to the whole area a rare distinction and charm. They lend an "air"; they *are* historic Germantown. The total effect is not one to amaze or overawe. Nor is it artificially quaint. But in its venerability it has an unassuming naturalness, a rightness that sets it apart.

If the "face" of Germantown is unusual, so also is the history of the town, for ever since its founding it has been a distinctive entity. The charter for the borough granted by William Penn in 1689—effective in 1691—is unique in itself as an organic instrument. It gave to a group of non-English settlers so much power and separateness that friction between them and the Proprietors was almost certain to develop. And it did, when some leading Germantowners objected to provincial tax policies in a manner suggestive of an intent to make the town too independent of colonial control. This is but one of a number of instances where the difference between the English and the German-Dutch cultures and attitudes made itself evident. The famous Protest against slavery issued from Germantown in 1688 is another case pointing up the different outlook upon a common problem held by the Dutch-German and the English settlers. In fact, throughout the eighteenth century, one important phase of the Germantown story is the history of the "Americanization" of an alien group. The process was a gradual one, unmarked, for the most part, by open dissension. The only notable exception to this was, of course, Sower's violent and successful opposition to the proposed English charity schools.

Another aspect of Germantown's founding, the character of its settlers, deserves mention. Unlike many other early American communities, Germantown, populated primarily by businessmen and craftsmen, quickly became an industrial community of some note. The establishment and development of the textile and paper

industries particularly were coincidental with the town's founding. Richard Frame celebrated both in his ambitious poem, *A Short Description of Pennsylvania*, published by William Bradford in 1692. Frame was acting as a public relations man for his colony, and no doubt boasting a little when he wrote, but the Germantowners made good his boast.

From the evidence at hand, it would seem that by the middle of the eighteenth century the character of the town had been pretty well formed. The great German migration, which began about 1730 and continued intermittently until the Revolution, had flowed into, through, and around Germantown. The village was a point of departure for many on their way to the interior, but others were satisfied to settle in the town itself and make it their permanent home. As a result, a building boom occurred, and the number of houses increased from approximately one hundred in 1745 to about three hundred and fifty in 1758. This growth coincided generally with the maximum immigrant flow, which was at its height from 1749 to 1754. In this latter year the French and Indian War broke out, and from then on to 1763 very few Germans arrived.

Up to that time the town was still predominantly German in population, language, and culture. The Sower press, one of the largest, if not the largest establishment of its kind in the colonies, was turning out an unending stream of printed matter, from the Bible, hymn books, and all sorts of other religious publications, to almanacs, newspapers, and other secular items. These were designed for consumption in the rural communities as well as in Germantown, and the influence of the press, and particularly of Sower's newspaper, among the Germans of Pennsylvania was tremendous. The very fact that the press was situated in Germantown made this town a cultural factor of the first order among the Germans who, incidentally, composed about one-third of the population of colonial Pennsylvania.

This is not to say that there were no English in Germantown before the Revolution. There were, but their number was not sufficient to change the essentially German character of the town. The English began to come in, principally from Philadelphia, in larger numbers during the latter half of the century to take advantage for the summer months of the salubrious atmosphere the town afforded. These men and women of English extraction who brought their alien language and *mores* with them to Germantown were not solely responsible for the ultimate spread of English ideas and attitudes in the Township, however. Equally important in the process of acculturation were the Germantowners who, doing business in Philadelphia, found it expedient to adopt the speech and the fashions of the

capital city. Through their influence, ideas and practices were introduced which began, by 1775, to overlay the town's fundamental Germanness with an English veneer.

By and large, particularly from the point of view of distinctive contributions and outstanding events, the most important years for Germantown came in the first century of its existence. These years saw the coming of the Pietists, the building of the first paper mill, the anti-slavery protest, the influx of the Palatines, the establishment of Sower's press, the founding of the Union School, the Paxton Boys episode, and the Battle of Germantown. In this period, also, the town's citizens were responsible for an impressive number of outstanding innovations or, as they are often called, "Germantown Firsts."

If the significance of these years is considered from another point of view, specifically from that of the preservation or restoration of historic Germantown, an important fact emerges: the historical and architectural remains that are of most value today stem from the eighteenth century. When the "Great Days" were over, or when the high period of Germantown's uniqueness ended, there existed not only a body of proud historical fact but a large number of houses which provide a concrete heritage of the past. Truly, in all respects of its being, Germantown is a fertile ground.

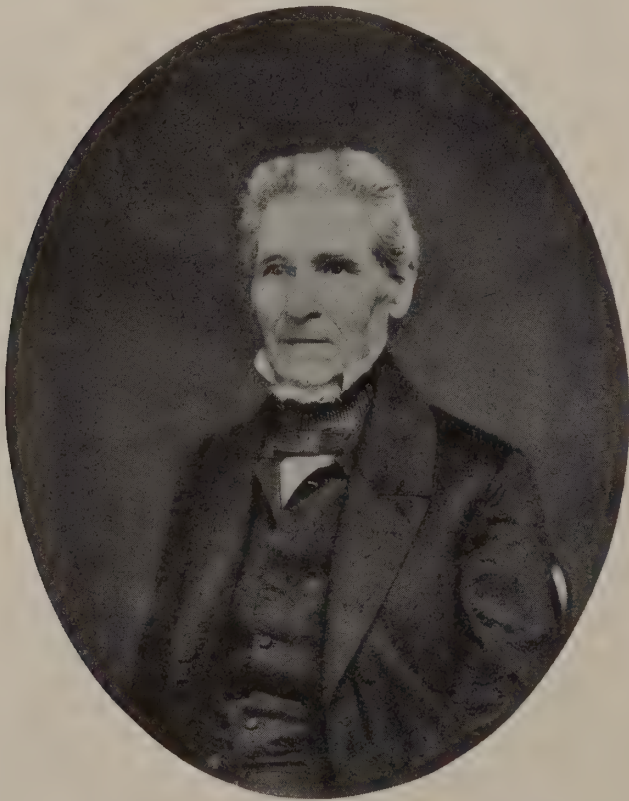


FIG. 1. John Fanning Watson, 1779-1860, one of Germantown's early publicists. Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

In this enterprise, essentially and fundamentally architectural in nature, it has been our function to provide historical data for the map of the Township which is part of the architectural study, to survey the materials available for a full-dress history of Germantown, and to prepare an historical introduction for the present survey. Our text is in no sense a history of Germantown, rather it is a preliminary survey, a by-product of our work on the buildings, maps, and bibliography. It is, therefore, and unavoidably, somewhat sketchy in character and is intended only to remind the reader of some of the more important developments in the first hundred years of the town's history. As our work progressed, numerous problems and questions arose which we were unable to answer without making a more thorough investigation of the subject than we could then undertake. We have stated these questions in hypothesis, and we hope that they may have the consideration they deserve in some future history of Germantown.

2. THE BEGINNING

Almost two hundred and seventy years ago Francis Daniel Pastorius, in describing what is now the Twenty-second Ward of Philadelphia, wrote: "Es ist alles nur Wald"—all is forest. The short sentence, of course, did not include a lot of other things observed by that versatile pioneer, such as springs, Indians, and rattlesnakes. If he were writing today he would omit all of them and would probably say: "All is concrete, stone, steel, asphalt, and neon." Then the embryonic settlement out in the woods was two hours from Philadelphia; today the travel time has been reduced to zero, for Germantown is a part of Philadelphia, and it is only twenty minutes "downtown."

In the intervening years the community has gone through the various phases of frontier hamlet, "Little province," borough, township, borough again, and has finally become the Twenty-second Ward of Philadelphia. To the person who glances casually at a city map, Germantown is just another section of a great metropolis, perhaps only a shopping center, but to the person familiar with its history and architecture it is much more than that; it is a distinct entity in itself, made so by the past and the remains of the past.

In its European origins the town, like several other communities in seventeenth-century America, was born of that economic and religious unrest which stirred the minds and hearts of Old World citizens who had grown tired of oppression, dictated uniformity and economic frustrations. Although Philadelphia and Germantown did not have their inception until the penultimate decade of the seventeenth century, the economic and spiritual conditions which led to their settlement were the culmination of many years of strife, disorder, and brutality in Europe. This conflict existed in both England and the Rhineland area, whence came the founders. Around the middle of the

seventeenth century England and the Holy Roman Empire were convulsed with struggles of a political and religious nature. The fight between king and Parliament in England did not end until 1689, and the horrible Thirty Years' War in Europe left a devastation from which the Germans would not recover for over a hundred years. The end of that war in 1648 left an aftermath of poverty and religious unrest which would continue to be aggravated by the wars of Louis XIV.

The religious aspects of the conflict in both England and the Germanies had their origins largely in the Lutheran revolt from the Roman Catholic Church early in the sixteenth century. Although this attack on Roman orthodoxy opened the gates to greater diversity of worship, it did not result in freedom of worship. The age was one of official intolerance, and the great Protestant groups, such as the Lutheran, Anglican, and Reformed, were often as adamantly orthodox as the Catholics. But in the religious turmoil that accompanied and followed the Reformation, it was impossible completely to stifle independent thought. As a result all sorts of schismatic and splinter groups appeared, variously designated as Pietistic or Sectarian. Opposed to the orthodoxy of state churches they were persecuted almost everywhere, by Protestants and Catholics alike. It is in these offshoots of orthodoxy, in the Quaker, Mennonite, and other "Pietistic" sects, that Philadelphia and Germantown had their beginnings.

The real impulse for the English settlement of Pennsylvania came, of course, from members of the Religious Society of Friends, a sect founded by George Fox in seventeenth-century England. Opposed to war and dogmatic secular authority, the early Quakers embraced a concept of spiritual internationalism which held all men to be brothers in the loving sight of God. As an ideology Quakerism held out hope for the oppressed everywhere. Missionaries became active in the British Isles and on the Continent, particularly in the region of the Rhineland. The latter area, in revolt against a stereotyped and intellectual religion, became a fertile field for proselytizing, and to it went many English Friends, including young William Penn.

In 1671 Penn made a trip to the Continent to try to win the followers of Johann de Labadie to Quakerism. A more extensive tour was made in 1677, when he visited several towns in Holland and the Germanies, including, among others, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Nijmegen, Frankfurt-am-Main, Krisheim, and Worms. During this trip he spoke often to interested groups and wrote several pamphlets. His sincerity and zeal were infectious, his messages persuasive, and when he later issued a call in that region for colonists, many remembered and responded. Indeed, the religious and humanitarian work of such ardent men as Penn, Thomas Rudyard, George Keith, and George Fox in the Rhineland was of international importance, for they helped

to unite in religious kinship sturdy English, Dutch, and German Pietists who, under the relatively lenient English colonizing policies, would lay the foundation for the State of Pennsylvania.

It was two of these towns in the Rhineland, Krefeld and Krisheim, that produced the original settlers of Germantown. This is the opinion expressed by William I. Hull in his book, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania*. Several writers on Germantown assumed that the "inspiration" for the settlement of the town "came from German Mennonite sources," and that its actual founders were German Mennonites themselves. "But," writes Dr. Hull, "a study of European sources in Krefeld and Krisheim reveals the fact that the founders of Germantown were not really Germans, but Netherlands, and not Mennonites, but Quakers."¹

As to their location, both were within the rambling Holy Roman Empire. More specifically, Krefeld was in the Principality of Orange-Nassau, ruled by William III of Orange, and Krisheim was subject to the Elector Palatine. Ethnically, the first emigrants to Germantown, from Krefeld, were Netherlands and those from Krisheim were Netherlands and German-speaking Swiss.²

This question of the "national" origins of the initial settlers in Germantown is greatly complicated by the ethnic diversity common to the Holy Roman Empire, the inclusiveness of the word "German" and the frequent wanderings of such persecuted religious groups as the Mennonites and Quakers. An additional complicating factor may well be the ancestral and religious antecedents of some of the historians concerned. It is quite possible that many writers use the word "German" in the seventeenth-century conception of that term. Dr. Hull himself admits that in so far as the word had a definite seventeenth-century meaning, the Krefelders and Krisheimers were, geographically speaking, "Germans." Edward W. Hocker describes Germantown as "the first American community composed entirely of German settlers."³ However, he points out that most of the names of the colonists who arrived in October, 1683, were Dutch,⁴ and he quotes Pastorius who describes the settlers of 1684 as "Hollanders." Again, John J. Macfarlane places Krefeld in "Germany" without qualification.

Religious persecution in the Rhineland varied with the locality. Under the rulers of Nassau and Orange a sporadic toleration was permitted, and various Protestant sects from Holland and nearby German principalities took refuge in Krefeld. Among these were a

¹ William Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker migration to Pennsylvania*, 178-179.

² *Ibid.*, 179.

³ Edward W. Hocker, *Germantown, 1683-1933: The record that a Pennsylvania community has achieved in the course of 250 years*, 9.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 10.

few Quakers. Although the local rulers followed no consistent anti-Quaker policy the Friends were attacked often enough to make their position exceedingly insecure and dangerous. They were, therefore, quite receptive to the invitation extended to them by William Penn to settle in Pennsylvania. So many of them left inhospitable Krefeld for Pennsylvania or other places that by 1686 there was no longer a Quaker meeting in the city.

In March, 1683, William Penn conveyed to Jacob Telner and Dirck Sipman, of Krefeld, and to Jan Streypers, of Kaldkirchen, a nearby village, 15,000 acres of Pennsylvania land. Three thousand additional acres were granted to three other Krefelders in the following June. These were the original Krefeld purchasers. Their object was not speculation but settlement, for they were tired of persecution, fearful of military conscription and devastation, and desirous of starting anew in the wilds of Pennsylvania.

The Krefelders, numbering thirty-three persons at the time of embarkation for England, were helped on their journey out of Europe by Benjamin Furly, Penn's European land agent, translator, interpreter, and friend. They were met in England by James Claypoole, a London merchant who, in previously contracting for their passage to America on the *Concord*, referred to them as the "Crevill Friends," or the "Dutchmen."⁵ They sailed from Gravesend on July 24, 1683, and arrived in Philadelphia on October 6.

The role played by Francis Daniel Pastorius in the German-Dutch migration to Pennsylvania is an important one. This remarkable man, linguist, author, lawyer, and teacher, was born in Sommerhausen on September 26, 1651. With an educational and travel background far superior to most of the early emigrants to Pennsylvania, he was an unusual and welcome asset to the new community. Although raised as a Lutheran, Pastorius had become acquainted with several Pietists in the Frankfort area and developed a sympathy for their approach to salvation. He eventually became a Quaker.

In 1682, after returning to Frankfort from a tour of Europe as companion to a young German nobleman, he learned that some of the local Pietists had been in correspondence with Benjamin Furly in regard to land purchases in Pennsylvania. Greatly interested in their activities and in the possibilities of creating a German haven in the New World, he soon decided to emigrate. He was, therefore, quite willing to become agent for a group of land purchasers organized as the German Society, later to be reorganized, in 1686, as the Frankfort Company.

Pastorius accepted the appointment on April 2, 1683, the day he left Frankfort for America. On his way out

of Europe he visited the Krefelders and Benjamin Furly to discuss the great adventure. Upon his arrival in London he bought 15,000 acres of land for the company he represented, and on June 6 sailed for Pennsylvania, where he landed on August 20. He had thus preceded the Krefelders, who would arrive at Philadelphia on October 6, 1683, by several weeks.

THE FOUNDING OF GERMANTOWN

It was Pastorius' understanding that the German Society was to receive 15,000 acres on a navigable stream. But in a discussion with William Penn on August 20 he learned that no tract of that size could be so located. No further action was taken until the Krefelders arrived. When they were safely in port, with their numbers now increased to thirty-four, Penn, on October 12, gave to them and Pastorius a warrant for 6,000 acres. One-half of this land was to go to the immediate contracting parties and the other half was reserved for the Frankfort purchasers. With these preliminaries disposed of, events moved rapidly. Fourteen plots of land were measured off in the Germantown area by surveyor Thomas Fairman on October 24, and on October 25, 1683,⁶ the accepted date for the founding of Germantown, Pastorius and thirteen men of the Krefeld contingent drew lots for their future home sites.

Of the fourteen men who drew lots at Pastorius' dwelling, or "cave," in Philadelphia (a site now occupied by No. 502 South Front Street) only Pastorius continued to live on along the Delaware. The other thirteen immediately began constructing buildings in the new settlement, and they lived in them during the winter months. Pastorius did not move out to Germantown until two years *after* it was settled.⁷

It has generally been assumed by most historians that Pastorius was the "founder" of Germantown. Certainly the testimony of the man himself would bear out such an assumption. For he says that at the request of Penn he "laid out and planned a new town which we call Germantown or Germanopolis."⁸

William Hull disagrees. He admits that Pastorius helped the Dutch pioneers locate their lands, but he was far from being the promoter of the Dutch emigration from Krefeld. On the contrary, he was encouraged by the Dutch, but to magnify "his own and the German influence . . . he claimed to have founded the town and called it Germantown."⁹ Pastorius was, continues Dr. Hull, "a worthy Quaker 'Pilgrim,' and . . . may well be called 'the pioneer of German immigration into Pennsylvania,' but not 'the founder of Germantown.'"¹⁰

To argue at length for or against the statement that Pastorius was *the* founder of Germantown would be

⁶ Grund und Lager Buch, HSP.

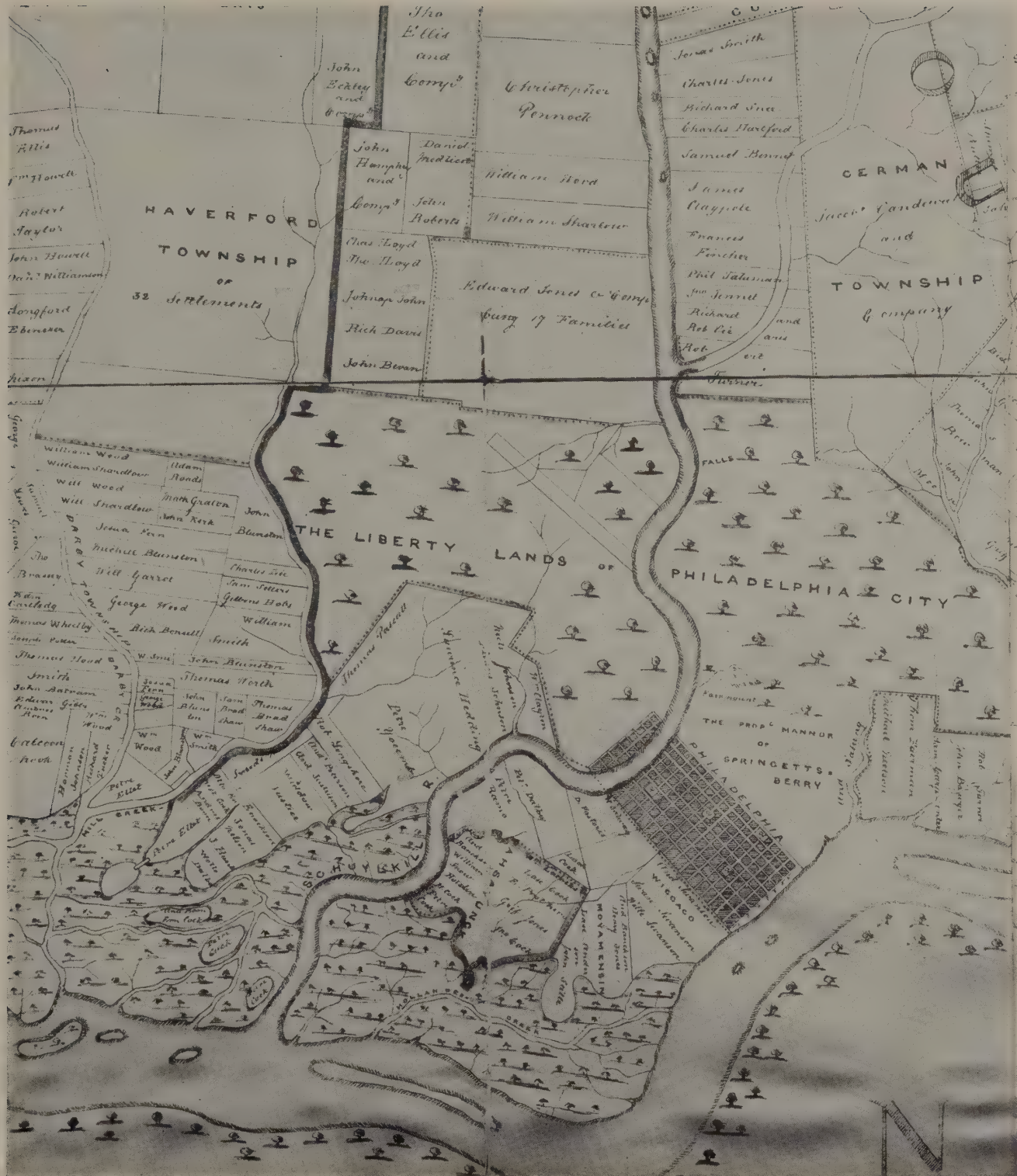
⁷ Hull, *Dutch Quaker migration*, 181.

⁸ Quoted in William P. Holcomb, *Pennsylvania Boroughs, Johns Hopkins Univ. Stud.*, 4th Ser. 4: 24-25, April, 1886.

⁹ Hull, *Dutch Quaker migration*, 181.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 184.

⁵ James Claypoole to Benjamin Furly, London, June 15 and 19, 1683. James Claypoole, *Letter Book*, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, hereafter cited as HSP.



MAP 1. Captain Thomas Holme. 1687. Courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

perilously close to quibbling. Or so it would appear to the present writers. His education and legal training, as well as his post as agent for the Frankfort purchasers, gave him a position of influence and prominence in the European migratory stage; he was the first of the Germantown pioneers to arrive here; his leadership was recognized when the original 6,000-acre tract was made over to "Daniel Pastorius in behalf of the German and Dutch purchasers";¹¹ his was the guiding spirit, and that his advice and counsel were valued is attested by the official positions he later held in Germantown. If he was not *the* founder, and here it is a delicate question of degree, he was certainly one of the leaders in the original establishment.

There is no doubt that Pastorius was greatly disappointed when the Frankfort Company did not emigrate. In an effort to stimulate the migration of Germans he requested the Frankfort purchasers to send them only "for the Hollanders (as sad experience has taught me) are not so easily satisfied, which in this new land is a very necessary quality."¹² Disappointed in this and other matters, he sought his release as agent in 1685, but reconsidered and agreed to serve until 1700. Eventually the Frankfort Company was dispossessed of its lands.

Since Pastorius was the only one of the Company to migrate, it is difficult to understand how Germantown could have been founded without the Dutch Krefelders. These were reinforced by a second group of settlers, this time from Krisheim, in 1685. By 1690 the population of Germantown was approximately 175, "of whom all but eight or ten were Dutch."¹³ But the influence of the Dutch was short-lived. After 1709 a flood of German immigrants obliterated the Dutch origins of the town.

EARLY GOVERNMENT

As has already been stated the original survey of Germantown, as a townsite, was made by Thomas Fairman in 1683. A survey of German Township followed in February, 1684, and in 1687 another and very thorough one by Fairman revealed that the township contained only 5,700 acres.¹⁴ In 1689 a warrant for the 5,700 acres was issued to Pastorius as representative of the settlers.

The nature of the government established for Germantown during the first few years is obscure. As a small community bordering on the old trail, later to be known as Germantown Road, little control, social or legal, was needed. Pastorius was on hand much of the time, and no doubt contributed his advice, but that some type of government existed before borough incor-

poration in 1691 is evidenced by the fact that in that year Herman Isaacs Optegraff was town president.

Ever since its establishment Germantown has been a distinct unit. That its founders intended it to be so is clear—they wanted a "little province" of their own, as Pastorius phrased it. After they had firmly established themselves, they procured a charter from Penn in 1689—royally approved in 1691—by virtue of which their settlement was made a borough. In the opinion of William P. Holcomb this was the first borough known to be organized in Pennsylvania.¹⁵ Thus the charter is of double interest—for the form of government it decreed, and because the document itself is one of the many Germantown "firsts." It is unlikely that Philadelphia ever had true borough status. Despite the fact that it was not formally chartered as a city until 1691 (new charter granted in 1701), it was constantly referred to as a "city" in the minutes of the provincial council and the acts of the assembly prior to 1691.¹⁶

The Germantown charter declared that Pastorius and nine others, all named, should "bee one Body polittique and Corporate aforesaid in name, & by the name of the Bailiffe, Burgesses and Comonalty of German Towne, in the County of Philadelphia."¹⁷ The officials were to be a bailiff, four burgesses, and six committeemen. Together they were to constitute the General Court of the Corporation. These men, or a designated combination thereof, could enact laws, impose fines, fill vacancies in offices and annually elect new officials from the members of the Corporation. These few, then, had a monopoly of government. All others were automatically disfranchised and, in effect, were politically nil. In addition, the General Court was empowered to sit as a court of record. Such a court was "an old institution in the boroughs of England. . . . Its survival in Germantown makes one of the most conspicuous features of its borough government."¹⁸

The form of government initiated under this charter in 1691 is unique in the history of Pennsylvania. Not only was the Germantown borough charter the first granted in Pennsylvania; it was, in all likelihood, the *only* one of its kind ever granted in that area. It has been suggested that Germantown, in beginning its career as a closed corporation where the suffrage was restricted to a select few, was following the pattern of organization developed in some English boroughs.¹⁹ Perhaps it also bore some similarity to municipal practice in Holland, a possibility that would bear investigation. In any case, the Germantown government was in sharp contrast to the government of boroughs organized later, where the privilege of voting for local officials was

¹¹ Hocker, *Germantown*, 20.

¹² Quoted in *ibid.*, 22.

¹³ Hull, *Dutch Quaker migration*, 398.

¹⁴ For details on these surveys, see the Grund und Lager Buch; the Pennsylvania Land Papers, James Clark Moore Collection; the Lehman MS on Germantown lots. All in HSP.

¹⁵ Holcomb, *Pennsylvania Boroughs*, 23.

¹⁶ Ernest S. Griffith, *History of American city government: the colonial period*, 433.

¹⁷ *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st Ser. 1: 111-115.

¹⁸ Holcomb, *Pennsylvania Boroughs*, 28.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 26-27.

usually extended to all who could vote for members of the General Assembly.

According to Holcomb, who was struck by the peculiarities of the "system," Germantown "holds a unique place in the history of Pennsylvania boroughs." Although settled by non-English, its form of government was supplied by the proprietary, and "in its form it is more nearly identical with the boroughs of England than any town settled wholly by the English. . . . In no other borough of Pennsylvania has there ever existed a corporate body independent of the community as at Germantown."²⁰

Indeed, the self-sufficiency of the little town led some of its citizens to adopt an attitude of independence that was not well received by the proprietary officials. A few years after its incorporation the borough government engaged in a dispute with the Pennsylvania Provincial Council over taxation and road maintenance. On March 5, 1701, the town presented a petition to the Council asking county tax exemption on the ground that it paid its own expenses without outside aid and should therefore not be levied upon for the upkeep of other parts of the county. The Council refused to grant the request.²¹

With such a closely and exclusively controlled government it might be expected that a few individuals would have seized power and held on to it tenaciously. Actually, the contrary was true, for many of the men in whom the corporate power was vested were so indifferent to it that they refused to take office. On one occasion Pastorius complained to Penn that his fellow townsmen "would do nothing but work and pray, and their mild consciences made them opposed to the swearing of oaths and courts, and would not suffer them to use harsh weapons against thieves and trespassers."²²

This distaste for office, in addition to difficulties with Pennsylvania, was one of the factors which led to the nullification of the borough charter in 1707. The nullification followed a list of illegal practices in Germantown, as set forth by George Lowther, Queen's Attorney, in 1706. Lowther declared that the General Court imposed taxes and cleared "by proclamation"; justices of the peace were not qualified, and marriages were performed by unauthorized persons. On January 11, 1707, Lowther adjourned the General Court, and it never met again.²³

The borough's abrupt demise brought to an end a governmental experiment which might well have been considered a part of the broader "Holy Experiment." Although a failure, it was at least an interesting one. The Germantown area then became merely a township, more prosaic but also more practical from the adminis-

trative point of view. This it remained until the middle of the nineteenth century, when it was again a borough for a brief space until it was made a part of the City of Philadelphia.

3. FARMERS AND GENTLEMEN

The heterogeneity of the population of colonial Pennsylvania is taken for granted. Contrariwise, it is assumed that Germantown was settled by Germans, and that it remained narrowly German until the Yellow Fever epidemics of the 1790's brought it into contact with the "civilized" world. Even a cursory survey indicates the error in the old generalization for, with the notable exception of the Scots-Irish, all the groups important in the settlement of Pennsylvania were represented among the landholders around Market Square by 1730.

In this section of Germantown, the land was first owned by Heivert Papen, Jacob Telner, Wigart Levering, Dirck op den Kolke, and Walter Simens. In 1720 Griffith Jones bought part of Papen's land bordering on what is now School House Lane and Germantown Avenue. He sold this, in 1727, to Hans George Bessell. Previously, in 1698, Telner had deeded a portion of his holding to his son-in-law Albertus Brandt, a Philadelphia merchant. After several other transfers, this land was purchased by John Jarrett, 1711, who sold part of it to John Ashmead in 1712. Another parcel of the land bought by Jarret from Telner ended, in 1726, in the hands of George Bringhurst. On the east side of the Square, Wigart Levering had sold out to James Delaplaine in 1692. Similarly, the land which Dirck op den Kolke had acquired from the Frankfort Company in 1689 had come into Delaplaine's hands in 1691. Delaplaine himself in 1723 sold part of his property to John Midwinter, a gardener, who in 1727 conveyed some of it to Henry Frederick through whose agency it came, in 1732, into the possession of the Dutch Reformed Church. Of all the original owners, only Walter Simens was still possessed of his grant forty years after the founding of Germantown, and none of the new owners was of the Dutch-Quaker stock from the Krefeld-Kresheim area. The Bensells were Swedish, Delaplaine a French Huguenot, the Ashmeads and Bringhursts were English Quakers.¹

On the surface, this shift among landowners was a purely economic affair involving the buying and selling of lots both for speculative purposes and for immediate use by the purchasers. (It also shows a trend toward redistributing the land in new and, generally, in smaller holdings better fitted for urban development than were the relatively large original lots.) At the same time, these land transfers contributed to the Americanization

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 30.

²¹ Logan Papers 1: 8, HSP; *Colonial Records* 2: 8; Holcomb, 29.

²² Pastorius' "Quakerism retained more than a tinge of Lutheranism." *Dictionary of American Biography* 14: 291.

²³ Hocker, *Germantown*, 52-53.

¹ For the information regarding the changing ownership of land in the Market Square area, we are indebted to Mr. Edward Leslie Byrnes, Jr., who kindly permitted us to use his essay, *Market Square, Germantown, 1683-1783*.



FIG. 2. Gerhard Hendricks' house. This little house with its steeply sloping roof is typical of the earliest Germantown building. Drawing after Charles J. Wister, in Thomas H. Shoemaker collection, reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

of the Rhinelanders by introducing into their midst, at the very beginning, neighbors of different national origins, among whom the English were predominant. The early settlers consequently were forced to come to terms not only with the New World but also with their fellow colonists whose language and customs were foreign to their own. Thus Germantown offers within a conveniently limited area a wealth of material for a case study of the Americanization process.

ARCHITECTURAL CHANGE

Inevitably the face of the town reflected the changing character, outlook, and interests of the residents. At first the houses built in German Township were very small, with steep roofs as in the Gerhard Hendricks house (fig. 2), or with gambrel roofs as in the Heivert Papen house (fig. 3). Like Jacob Telner's house, described as being "low and built of framework filled with brick," these early dwellings were probably similar to the half-timbered houses common on the continent and in England at the time. None of these is standing



FIG. 3. The Heivert Papen house. With its gambrel roof, arched cellar windows and front stoop, this is typical of many of the Germantown houses of the early eighteenth century. Sketch by John Richards. Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



FIG. 4. Market Square, Germantown. The engine house of the Middle Ward Fire Company and the Market House are to the left. Beyond them, at the extreme left, are the Bensell houses at Schoolhouse Lane. The Germantown Fire Insurance Company building is at the extreme right, beyond it is the Market Square Church with its weather vane crowned steeple. Photograph from the Historic American Buildings Survey. Reproduced by permission of the Library of Congress.

today and since the deeds transferring property from one owner to another mention in the vaguest sort of way, if they mention them at all, any buildings standing on the land, the best sources of information we have for the appearance of the early buildings are the accounts of observant travelers like Peter Kalm, and the collections of pictures made in the nineteenth century by local historians like Thomas Shoemaker. (Even as late as 1900 some of the small houses characteristic of Germantown's first building were standing; consequently, the photographs made by Shoemaker, Lippincott, and others, largely between 1880 and 1910, and the drawings, lithographs, and etchings of Richards, Stauffer, and Pennell show clearly the type of architecture in vogue in Germantown about 1700.)²

Gradually Germantown Road underwent a change. Many of the old houses were torn down, although some, instead of being demolished, were incorporated into the newer, larger, and more fashionable houses their later owners built. Instead of the one-and-a-half story dwelling that would have been as much at home in Krefeld as in Germantown, the Township's residents began to build in the more formal Philadelphia Georgian manner. Certain elements from earlier times continued to appear, however. For example, the arched cellar windows, the front stoop, and the "Dutch" door remained in favor, but in general the style was that of Philadelphia, the only important variation being that the houses were of stone rather than of brick. The difference in architectural style between Germantown's early build-

² The Thomas H. Shoemaker collection in the HSP is invaluable.

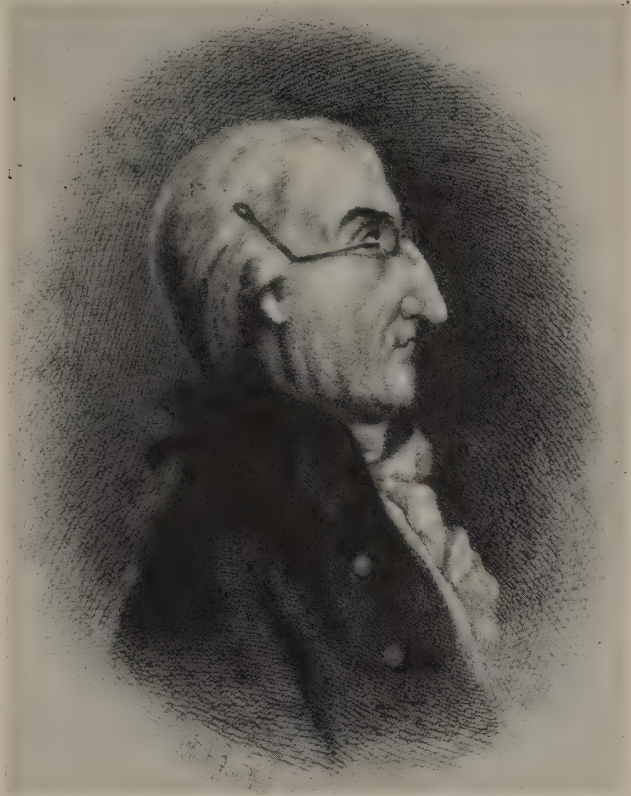


FIG. 5. Benjamin Chew, 1722–1810, the builder of Cliveden. Albert Rosenthal's etching of an early portrait is reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

ings and these later ones is clear³ and it represents an important shift in popular taste, a very considerable increase in the wealth of the community, and a consequent adoption of a more elegant mode of living. Since the new houses were built in the Philadelphia pattern, they also indicate the ever-increasing influence of the city on its outlying districts, of which Germantown was one of the most important.

A survey of the rather unsatisfactory data available regarding the tides of building in Germantown shows several things. After the period of settlement, the next major boom seems to have come in the 1740's. Shortly thereafter new public buildings began to accumulate. A market house was built in the Market Square about 1741; some years later the fire engine house was erected near to it. In 1760 the main building of the Germantown Academy, then called the Union School, was built, and in 1775 the Concord School house was constructed. An addition was made to the Dutch Reformed Church in 1762, and both the Mennonites and the Dunkards built new meeting houses in 1770. Probably not until the 1790's did Germantown know a similar season of change and alteration. During the Federal Era, from about 1783 to 1812, the town acquired something of a

³ Compare, for example, figs. 1 and 2 with the photographs of the Hacker house, the Shippen house, the Morris house on pages 49, 66, 88.



FIG. 6. The entrance hall at Cliveden. The formal elegance of this room is a far cry from the unpretentious interiors of the typical Germantown house. Photograph in the Philip Wallace collection, reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

new look, architecturally speaking. Most of the fine old houses which are today looked upon as representative of the town's taste either date from this period or were remodeled into their present form during it. Upsala, Vernon, and Loudoun were built then. Belfield,

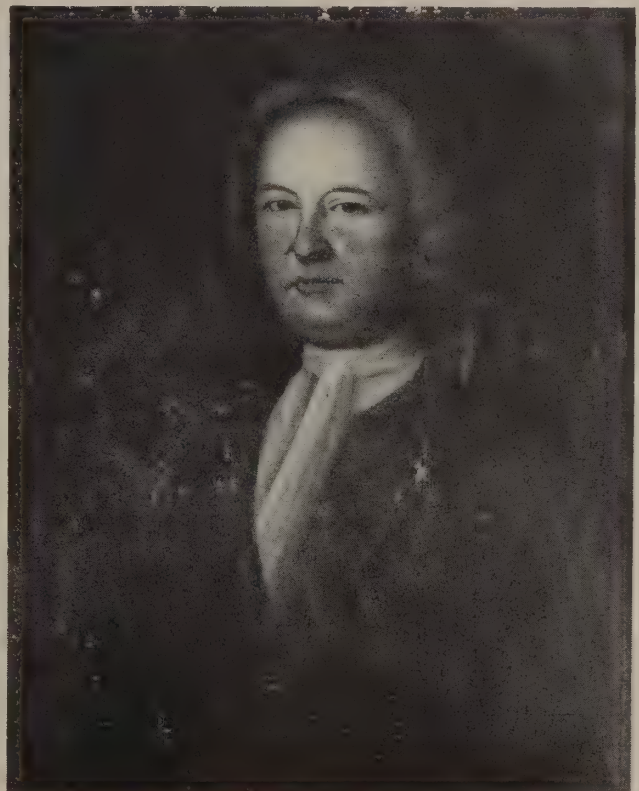


FIG. 7. James Logan. Portrait by Gustavus Hesselius in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Reproduced by permission of the Frick Art Reference Library.



FIG. 8. The dining room at Stenton. Photograph in the Philip Wallace collection, reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Wyck (in 1824), and Grumblethorpe were remodeled. Add these to Stenton, Cliveden, and Mount Airy, and it would be hard to find houses to surpass the Germantown mansions anywhere, even in Tidewater Virginia.

Additional documentation for the growth and development of German Township is provided by the contemporary maps of the area. For example, Scull and Heap's map of Philadelphia, 1750, marks many of the country seats in the area surrounding the city proper and shows the trend toward country living in which Germantown played so important a part. The preference of many Philadelphians "for gardens and orchards, for country amusements in a rural setting," remarked upon by the Bridenbaughs, in *Rebels and Gentlemen* (p. 191), was evident in Germantown from the 1720's. James Logan set the fashion when he built Stenton. Other Friends followed his lead, although many who summered in Germantown did not build or buy houses of their own but merely took lodgings at some respectable inn or with a private family. As time went by, however, more and more of Philadelphia's well-to-do purchased land or houses in the Township. The Wisters acquired Grumblethorpe about 1744, William Allen established himself at Mount Airy in the 1750's, and Benjamin Chew built the most pretentious house of all, Cliveden, in 1763.

The advertising columns of the Philadelphia newspapers in the decade immediately preceding the Revolution show the existence of an active market for Germantown houses in the city. David James Dove proudly offered his house (now 130 West School House Lane) with its two and a half acres of "beautiful garden and fruitful orchard" for sale and declared that it was "exactly calculated for the seat of any gentleman of taste."⁴ Christian Lehman, through the medium of the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, reported that his house, "well known

for its elegant situation," would suit "any West Indian or other gentleman for a pleasant, healthy, and commodious Country Seat."⁵ Dr. Bensell advertised "To be Lett for the Summer Season (upon very moderate Terms) A large and commodious House pleasantly situated in Germantown. . . ."⁶ And so it went. Healthy, commodious, pleasant were the adjectives most frequently used by the owners in describing their properties, and they invariably mentioned, as an "extra" of importance, the well-stocked garden and orchard.

Both orchards and gardens were small, as a rule, and designed primarily to supply the resident's dinner table with fruit in season and with a good supply of vegetables. Flower gardens were not wholly neglected, however, as Christian Lehman's advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* for April 12, 1768, shows. In addition to a large assortment of fruit trees for sale, he mentioned "a great variety of beautiful double Hyacinth roots and Tulip roots . . . and most other things in the flower . . . way."⁷

Incidentally, Lehman, who added the professions of nurseryman and gardener to his other skills of surveying, translating, and conveyancing, also "made up parcels of curious plants, shrubs, and seeds of the growth of this climate in such manner as best secures them according to what country or climate they are designed to be transported."⁸ Old World interest in American plants and seeds was keen and in engaging to supply Europeans and others with "curious" botanical specimens Lehman was following in the steps of another Germantowner, Dr. Christopher Witt, who for a time had forwarded plants to Peter Collinson, London merchant and botanist.⁹

Germantown did not produce a botanist to rival the Bartrams of Philadelphia but James Logan after his removal to Stenton contributed to the development of botanical science by reporting his findings relative to the reproduction of maize. The results of his investigations, published in the *Transactions* of the Royal Philosophical Society in 1736, attracted considerable attention among European scientists.¹⁰ Even after the Revolution, this spirit of scientific inquiry, so characteristic of the eighteenth century, continued to inform the minds of the men interested in agriculture in Germantown. Logan's grandson, Dr. George Logan, became a charter member of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society (organized in 1785),¹¹ and a number of his fel-

⁵ *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, April 12, 1768.

⁶ *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 7, 1771.

⁷ Lehman's advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, April 12, 1768.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Carl and Jessica Bridenbaugh, *Rebels and gentlemen*, 309.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 306-307.

¹¹ Olive Moore Gambrell, John Beale Bordley and the Early Years of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 66: 419, 1942. The records of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, particularly the *Minutes*, February, 1785, to March, 1812, published by the So-

⁴ Quoted in Charles Francis Jenkins, *Washington in Germantown*, 101.



GENERAL PLAN

GERMANTOWN & CREESAM TOWNSHIPS

COPIED FROM

MATTHIAS ZIMMERMAN ORIGINAL OF

JUNE 26, A.D. 1746

AND SEVERAL DISTRICTS, ETC. DRAWN BY

CHRISTIAN LEHMAN

JULY 28, 1766

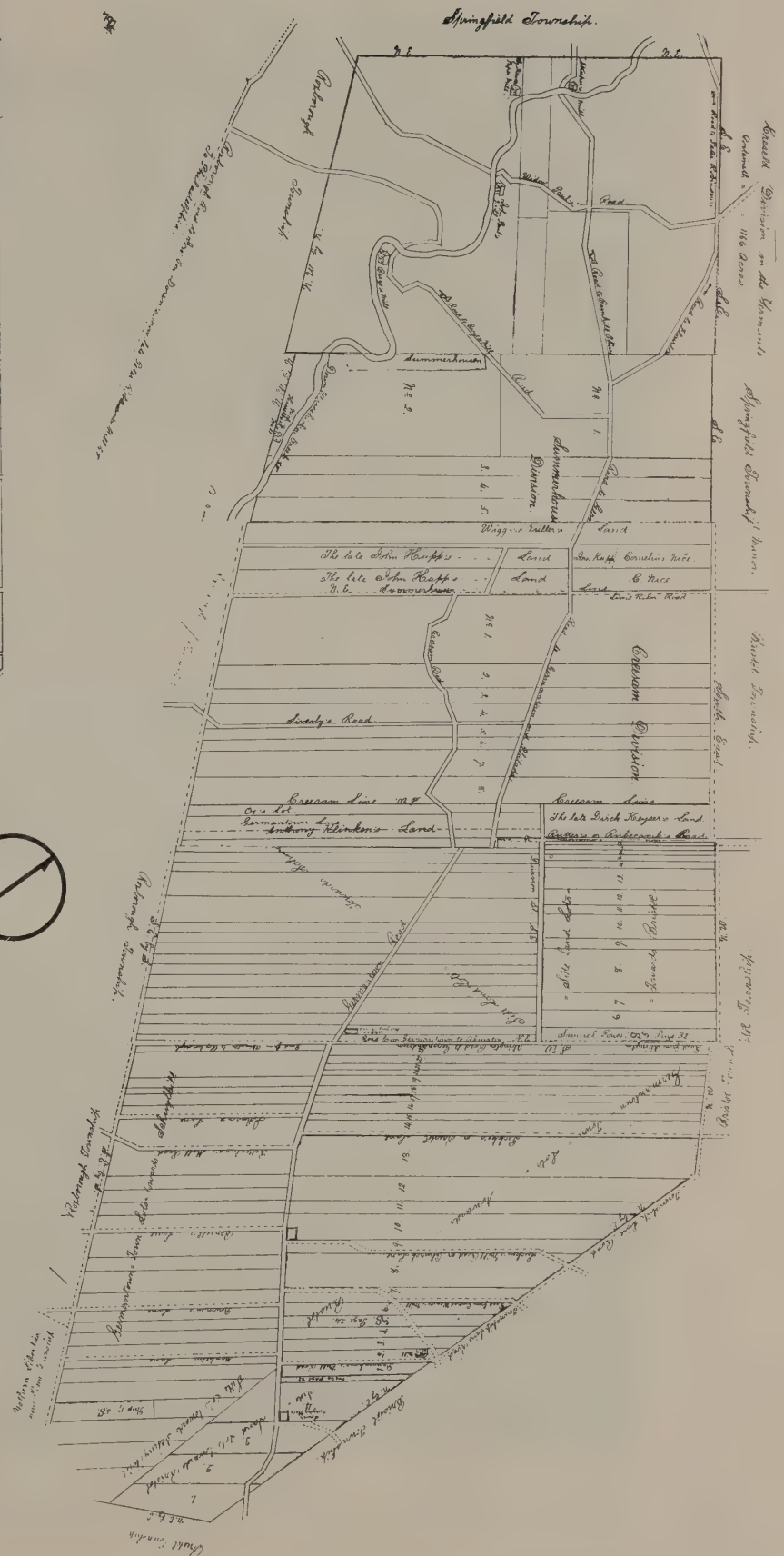
CAREFULLY COPIED BY HIS GRANDSON

JOSEPH LEHMAN

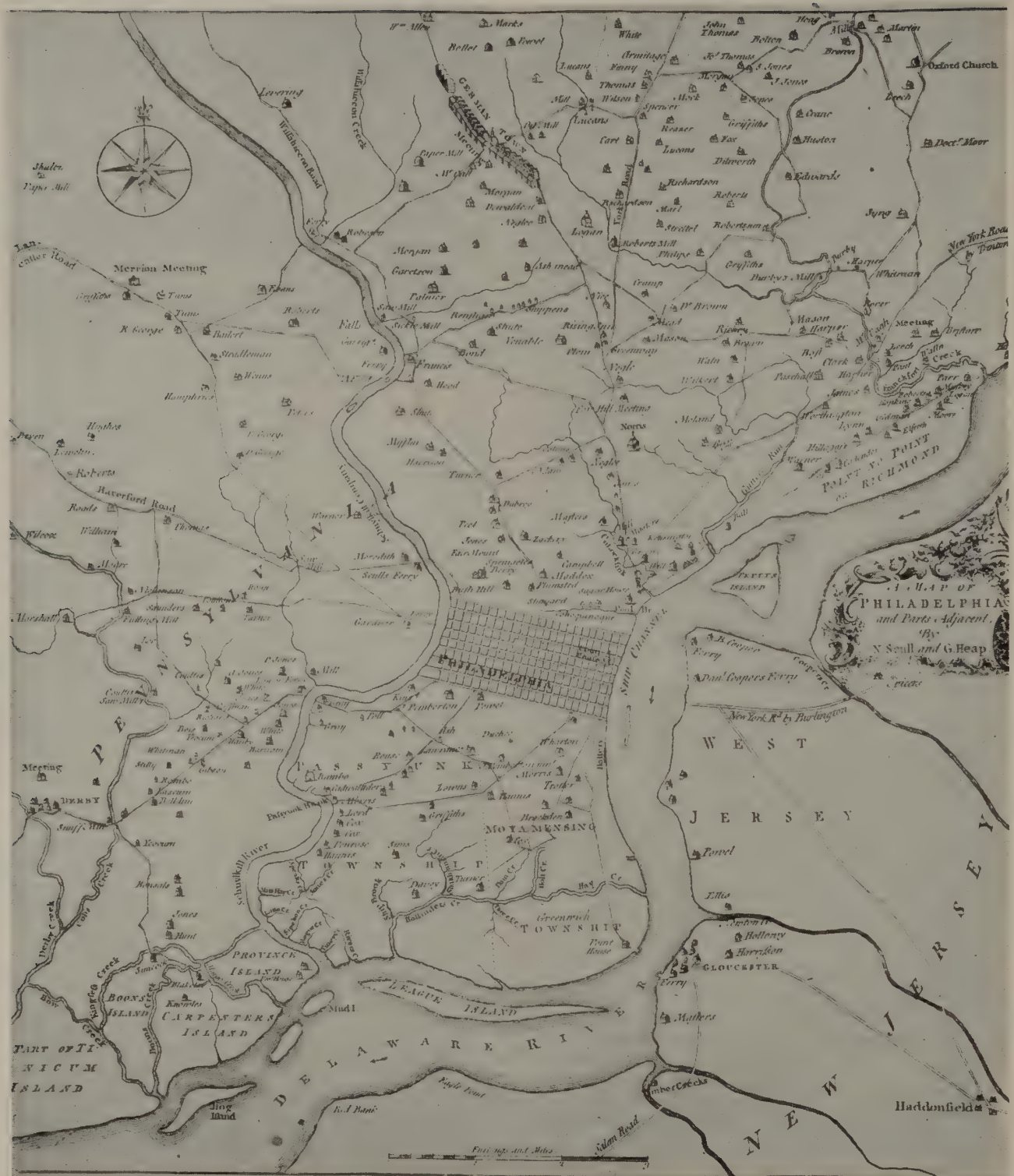
JANUARY 1, 1824

FOR HIS FATHER

BENJAMIN LEHMAN



MAP 2. Zimmerman-Lehman General Plan. 1746, 1766. Recopied, 1824.
Courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



MAP 3. Scull and Heap, Philadelphia. 1750. Courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

low townsmen also conducted experiments in scientific animal husbandry, tried out new and improved farm machinery, new fertilizers (according to Watson, Abraham Rex, and Leonard Stoneburner were the first to use plaster of Paris to sweeten their land),¹² and new varieties of grain.

Throughout the eighteenth century, the Germantown gentleman, whether he was an old resident or a newcomer like William Allen, seems to have been more interested in practical gardening than in ornamental horticulture.¹³ It was not until the 1800's that ornamental gardens became the thing in Germantown. After he moved to Belfield, Charles Willson Peale started a fine garden there which was "the admiration of numerous visitors."¹⁴ John Wister at Vernon and Charles Wister at Grumblethorpe were enthusiastic gardeners in

ciety in 1854, and the *Memoirs* (6 volumes, 1808-1825, 1939), contain references to Germantown's concern for improved agricultural theory and practice.

¹² Naaman H. Keyser, *History of old Germantown*, 70.

¹³ Lewis Burd Walker, ed., *Extracts from Chief Justice William Allen's letter book, together with an appendix containing pamphlets in the controversy with Franklin*, 12, 34, 78-79.

¹⁴ From Peale's Autobiography. Quoted in Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, *Portrait of a colonial city: Philadelphia 1670-1838*, 526.



FIG. 9. Belfield and its famous gardens, 1816. A copy by Reubens Peale of a painting by Charles Willson Peale. Reproduced by permission of the present owner, Mr. Andrew Weisenburg.

the new way, and there were noteworthy gardens, too, at Wyck and at Upsala, to mention only a few, and those belonging to houses still standing. Gardening



FIG. 10. Loudoun before the addition of the south portico. Drawn by Charles Alexandre Lesueur. Lesueur was the drawing master at Mme Grelaud's school for young ladies which occupied Loudoun several summers during the 1820's. From the photostat collection of Lesueur's drawings in the American Philosophical Society. Reproduced by permission of the Society.

for show requires leisure—to plan the garden and to enjoy it—and a comfortable income. When Germantown society acquired these in sufficient amounts, beautiful gardens proliferated.

The hurly burly of the Revolutionary years interrupted for a while Germantown's career as a summer resort. With the peace, the old trend toward country living reappeared. In his *Travels in the Confederation*, Schoepf spoke of the "many Philadelphians [who] own land and houses here, and use the place as a resort for summer."¹⁵ Reading contemporary diaries, looking into old histories and new monographs, it seems as though everybody who was anybody came to Germantown for one reason or another, at one time or another. Young men brought their families here for the summer to secure them from the miasmas and fevers of Philadelphia. Schools moved their faculties and students to Germantown for the same reason. Successful merchants bought houses here and retired to enjoy the company of their peers and the bucolic amusements in vogue at the time. For a while, particularly in the 1790's and during the first decade of the nineteenth century, it seemed as though Germantown was about to develop that dualism characteristic of old towns invaded by a new *rentier* class who live beside but mix only superficially with the old inhabitants.

In the case of Germantown, fortunately, things worked out differently. Some of the new owners, of course, and some of the old residents, too, whose family inheritance was sufficient to permit them to indulge their tastes without regard for economic necessity, settled down to a pleasant and not wholly unrewarding dilettantism, but a number of the men who came to Germantown to enjoy their leisure remained to build. Take, for example, Samuel Harvey, a hardware merchant of Philadelphia who settled in the Township about 1810, and who proceeded to put an active hand to the community's affairs. He was president of the National Bank of Germantown; president of the Turnpike Company; and after the town's reincorporation as a borough, he was selected the first burgess. Men of this sort kept Germantown from becoming just another placid, flaccid suburban town, most of whose residents earned their money and expended their creative energies in the neighboring city. The suburban development was important, but for Germantown it never became the whole story.

4. THE SPIRIT AND THE MIND

It is hard in a non-theological age to accept the religious motivation which dominated the activities of the early colonists, not only in Pennsylvania but throughout the British Empire. Some years ago it was fashionable to point out the hypocrisy of men who exalted their prayer books in their speech and writings and carefully

honored their pocketbooks in their daily living. We now admit that to the seventeenth-century Protestant this behavior was not inconsistent, that in augmenting energetically his own worldly goods he was in his own eyes demonstrating the power and glory of the Lord whose humble instrument he believed himself to be.

This old controversy over the discrepancy between the words and deeds of the early Americans has never taken up many pages in the historiography of Germantown. A gentler form of Protestantism prevailed here and the first settlers were generally rather more interested in praising God than they were in demonstrating His power on a worldly level. They opened the official records of the Germantown General Court with quotations from the Bible:

There is no power but of God
And thou shalt take no gift. . . .
Ye shall not respect any persons in judgment;
but ye shall hear the small as well as the great.
And as ye would that men should do to you, do
ye also to them likewise.¹

And there is every reason to believe that the settlers seriously tried to live up to these precepts. One small measure of their success is the fact that there is no record of any major crime in Germantown during these early years.

OF FAITHS OLD AND NEW

So far as formal religious affiliation goes, most of the first residents of the Township were Friends. The greater number of the Krefeld and Krisheim emigrants had been Quakers in their old homes, and in Germantown they quickly set up a meeting for worship, probably before 1686.² This Germantown meeting was from the beginning associated with the English Friends meetings in the usual way, being a constituent part of the Dublin or Abington Monthly Meeting, of the Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, and of the Philadelphia or Burlington Yearly Meeting.³ That being the case, these Germantown Friends were obviously an important force pulling Germantown into closer association with the English of Philadelphia.

The Mennonites, too, were represented in Germantown at an early date. Of the original settlers from Krefeld, Jan Lensen seems to have been the only adherent to Menno Simon's doctrines, but by 1690 several other families holding to this faith had come to Germantown, and meetings were held under William Rittenhouse's ministry at Jacob Isaac Van Bebbler's house.⁴ In 1708 the congregation erected a meeting house on the east side of Germantown Avenue; this building was replaced, in 1770, by the stone meeting house (now number 6119) still in use. The congregation was always small, but inasmuch as it was the parent congre-

¹ Quoted in Griffith, *American city government*, 380-381.

² Hocker, *Germantown*, 26.

³ Hull, *Dutch Quaker migration*, 184.

⁴ Hocker, *Germantown*, 28.

¹⁵ Johann David Schoepf, *Travels in the Confederation* [1783-1784], translated by Alfred J. Morrison, 121, 122.

gation of the Mennonite Church in America, its influence was considerable, particularly so in the middle of the eighteenth century when German emigration to Pennsylvania was at its peak.

Another of the influential religious denominations, the Dunkards, came to Germantown in 1719. Their first meetings were held in Peter Becker's house and their first baptism was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1723, in a pool in the Wissahickon near Kitchen's Lane. The stone meeting house (now 6613 Germantown Avenue) was not built until 1770. For the greater part of the preceding period, the Dunkards worshipped in houses of members of their congregation. As in the case of the Mennonites, this was the first church of the sect to be established in the New World and it, too, offered an avenue through which the influence of the Germantown community was brought to bear on the Pennsylvania Germans of the rural areas.

There were adherents of the Lutheran and of the Dutch Reformed churches among the first settlers, but neither group had a regularly organized congregation in the borough until the eighteenth century. St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized and a church built in 1738 at what is now Germantown Avenue and Phil-Elena Street. The Dutch Reformed

congregation acquired ground on the Market Square and built their first church on this site in 1733.

By far the most romantic of Germantown's religious groups were the Hermits of the Wissahickon. These men, led by Johannes Kelpius, followed no formal body of church doctrine, although their beliefs stemmed in a general way from the Anabaptist and Pietist movements. Far from being narrowly doctrinaire as were many of the so-called Christian communities, the Hermits hoped, as did Zinzendorf a generation or so later, to form a nucleus around which a union of the many German sects and denominations could develop.⁵ Like Kelpius, who was a graduate of the University of Altdorf, many of the Hermits were scholars, and the group as a whole is remarkable chiefly for its intellectual and spiritual qualities. That they attracted to their membership Dr. Christopher Witt is a measure of the intellectual climate they created. Witt was an astonishing Englishman who, next to Pastorius, most nearly approximated the Renaissance idea of the universal man of any of Germantown's early citizens. He was a physician, a teacher, a botanist, a mechanic—being a clock and pipe organ maker—a skilled musician and an artist. His portrait of Kelpius (painted about 1705) is "one of the earliest, if not *the* earliest oil portrait extant which originated in Pennsylvania."⁶ After Kelpius died, the Wissahickon society fell apart. Some members joined the Mennonites, some the Dunkards, and some went to Ephrata after the founding of that community.

Throughout the first hundred years of its history, religious questions were discussed, often with considerable heat, in Germantown. Many of the great preachers of the colony and some from abroad preached here to large and interested audiences. Gilbert Tennent, Francis Asbury, and George Whitefield all held services in the Township, as did men who, like Zinzendorf, were leaders among the German denominations in whose membership the religious ferment was strong. It was the age of the Great Awakening and men took to heart, for a time at least, the exhortations of a master of eloquence like Whitefield who, according to tradition, spoke to an audience of five thousand people, addressing them from the balcony of the Delaplaine house on Market Square in November, 1739.⁷

A few years after the sound and fury of Whitefield's preaching died away, the Moravians provided Germantown—and Philadelphia—with a new subject for discussion. Henry Antes had proposed, in 1741, a plan for uniting the various German churches. Upon his coming to Germantown, Count Zinzendorf developed this plan into the famous unity conferences, the first of



FIG. 11. Johannes Kelpius, painted by Christopher Witt. This early Pennsylvania portrait is reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁵ E. Gordon Alderfer, ed., *Johannes Kelpius, a method of prayer*, 30.

⁶ William Sawitzky, *Catalogue descriptive and critical of the paintings and miniatures in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, 83.

⁷ Hocker, *Germantown*, 71.

which was held, January 1, 1743, at the home of Theobald Endt (now 5222 Germantown Avenue). The conference was attended by members of the Lutheran, Reformed, and Moravian churches and by Mennonites, Dunkards and other sectarians. These unity conferences promised much but unhappily they led to conflict and controversy instead of to spiritual union.

It is worth noting that Germantown's religious pattern changed very little until the end of the eighteenth century. The churches first established—the Friends Meeting, organized before 1686, the congregations of the Mennonites, set up about 1708, of Dunkards, 1723, of Lutherans, 1738, and of Dutch Reformed, about 1727—continued to meet the community's needs until the 1790's. All these churches, with the exception of the Friends, had their roots in the German areas of the continent, and apparently the town's Germanness continued in the religious sphere much longer than it did in any other phase of town life. However, the Market Square church with its Dutch Reformed congregation was closely allied with the Presbyterian church both in Europe and in the colonies, and it seems not to have closed its doors to members of other congregations or its pulpit to ministers of other faiths. This church, and the Friends Meeting, probably filled the spiritual needs of the non-German groups in Germantown before the organization of the First Methodist Church, in 1796, the First Presbyterian Church, in 1810, St. Luke's Episcopal, in 1811, and the First Baptist Church—in Chestnut Hill—in 1834.

THE PROTEST OF 1688

Taking it altogether, the most remarkable feature of Germantown's religious complex was the sincere concern for humanitarian ideas exemplified by the Protest of 1688 against slavery. The idea of human rights expressed in this document was in advance of humanitarian thought in either the Old or the New World. Even the Pennsylvania Friends, who with their co-religionists here and abroad were later to be leaders in the anti-slavery movement, found the Protest too radical for acceptance at this time. In fact, this document, drawn up at the house of Tunes Kunders (the site is now 5109 Germantown Avenue), probably represents the chief point of difference between the Dutch and German Quakers of Germantown and the English Friends of Philadelphia. The different attitudes of the two groups did not stem from a difference in sincerity of religious belief but from a different *mores*: the protestants came originally from a European country where slavery for profit was not an accepted part of the national commercial enterprise, as it was in England, and consequently their view of the institution was uncomplicated by ancient customs and economic pressures.⁸ No action was taken on the Protest—signed by

⁸ Hildegard Binder-Johnson, *The Germantown protest of 1688 against Negro slavery*, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 65: 155, 1941.

Pastorius, Gerhard Hendricks, Dirck and Abraham op den Graff—by either the Monthly Meeting at Dublin, or by the Quarterly Meeting; and at the Yearly Meeting in Burlington it was agreed that it would be improper “to give a positive judgment in the case.” Although it failed of acceptance, the Protest is notable as being the first attempt by any group in British America to secure official disapproval of the institution of human slavery. It was, as well, a measure of the character of the men who settled Germantown.

EDUCATION AND ASSIMILATION

The education of their children was a matter of concern to the Germantown settlers, and in 1701 the Germantown Court appointed Aret Klincken, Paul Wulff, and Peter Schumacker to be supervisors of a school which opened January 11, 1702. Pastorius was the first teacher and continued to be master of this, the first community school in Pennsylvania, for about fourteen years.⁹ After Pastorius' death, the elementary education of the Township's children seems to have been left largely in the hands of the various religious denominations. St. Michael's Lutheran Church maintained a school large enough in 1748 to require two schoolmasters. The Dutch Reformed Church in Market Square had a school, as did the Mennonites, and for a short while, the Moravians also. Among the schoolmasters of Germantown, Christopher Dock, Anthony Benezet, and Hilarius Becker, later the first master of the German department of the Germantown Academy, are the best known. Incidentally, night schools for the education of adults were not unknown in Germantown. Johann Wolfgang Leitzel advertised in 1754 that he was conducting one, winter and summer, in the lower end of the town.¹⁰ From Germantown also came the first work on pedagogy to be printed in British America, a treatise by Christopher Dock which Christopher Sower II published in 1770. Dock's “Hundred Necessary Rules of Conduct for Children,” an early etiquette book, had appeared in 1764 in Sower's magazine.

In view of this very commendable activity in educational matters, it is no wonder that the residents of Germantown took umbrage at a proposal to establish schools among the Pennsylvania Germans to teach their children German as well as English, mathematics, geography, history and ethics, and “the Constitution and interest of the Colonies.” Had the scheme had no political implication, which of course it did, it would probably have been unacceptable to many, since it suggested, and rather strongly at that, that the Germantowners and the other German settlers in Pennsylvania were too dull to provide a proper education for their own children. When the intention of indoctrinating

⁹ James Mulhern, *A history of secondary education in Pennsylvania*, 85; Hocker, *Germantown*, 46, 79–81.

¹⁰ James O. Knauss, Jr., *Social conditions among the Pennsylvania Germans in the eighteenth century as revealed in the German newspapers published in America*, 77.

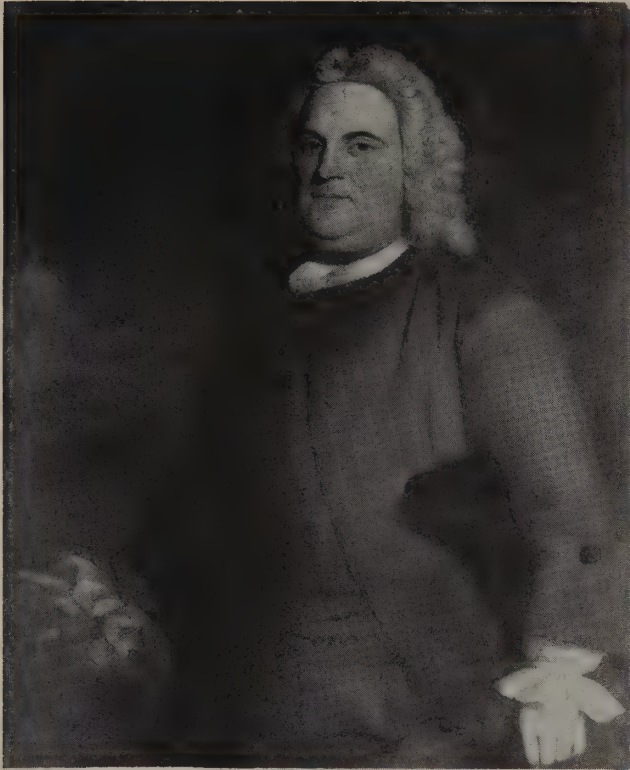


FIG. 12. Chief Justice WILLIAM ALLEN, 1704-1780. Allen, with James Logan and Benjamin Chew, was among the first Philadelphians to build country houses in Germantown. This portrait, in Independence Hall, is reproduced by permission of the National Park Service.

the pupils with certain political views was taken into account, the resulting uproar was bound to be deafening.

From the point of view of the English governor, George Thomas, who first conceived the plan, and from that of the men who so earnestly tried to carry it out—William Allen, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Peters, William Smith, Conrad Weiser—the establishment of schools designed to hasten the complete assimilation of the Pennsylvania Germans into the English colonial world was a project of major importance. For ten years, from 1754 to 1764, they tried to put it into effect. These men were concerned for the defense of the colony's frontiers and they were anxious to win over to their way of thinking the Pennsylvania Germans whose pacifistic tendencies had hitherto generally kept them voting with the Quakers in opposition to the defense measures proposed in the Assembly.

At first the members of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations lent some support to the plan, and the Reverend Michael Schlatter, a Reformed minister, was appointed superintendent of the schools. The sects, however, with their Quietist beliefs, opposed it from the start. So did Christopher Sower. Sower's newspaper became the spearhead of the attack upon the English sponsored charity schools, and in time he drew the whole Pennsylvania German community behind him.

In spite of everything that the schools' sponsors could do—and they even tried setting up rival newspapers in their efforts to outshout Sower—the charity school movement failed.¹¹

One result of the contest was the founding, in 1759, of the Union School of Germantown, now known as the Germantown Academy. A meeting was held on December 6 at Daniel Mackinett's tavern to discuss the project. Christopher Sower, Christopher Meng, Baltus Reser, John Jones, Charles Bensell, Daniel Endt, and Mackinett were present. Ground on West School House Lane was purchased from John and George Brighthurst for £125; a building committee was appointed; funds were raised; and in August of 1761 the school was opened. The following year, 1762, sixty students were enrolled in the German department, headed by Hilarius Becker, and seventy in the English department, of which David James Dove was master.¹²

It is hard to see how the Germantowners could have devised a more effective answer to Franklin, Smith, Allen, and company, than the Union School, with its English as well as its German departments. The men who planned and put into execution an educational program of such breadth and who hired men like Becker and Dove were certainly not "the most ignorant stupid sort" that Franklin once declared the Germans in Pennsylvania to be.

Another English school was founded in Germantown before the Revolution. In March, 1775, a number of the inhabitants of Upper Germantown: "Taking into Consideration the Distance and particular Inconvenience through the Winter Seasons of Sending their Children to the Lower School and Seeing the number of Children Continually increasing" proposed to build a school on part of the property of the Upper Burying Ground. Jacob Engle, Peter Keyser, Peter Leibert, and Jacob Knorr were "unanimously Chosen to be the Managers of the Said Building, By whom it was Carried on, and nearly Completed by the Latter End of October the Same Year fit for School, Which was first opened and kept by John Grimes Schoolmaster."¹³ Incidentally, Engle and Leibert had also been managers for the Union School.

Certainly there was no lack of educational opportunity in Germantown, and it was almost equally certain that the fashionable trend was toward the acquisition of an education in English. Years before, Pastorius had written to his children advising them to learn the English language: "Though you are . . . of high Dutch Parents, yet remember that your father was Naturalized, and ye born in an English Colony. Consequently each of you *Anglus Natus* and Englishmen by Birth. Therefore, it would be a shame for you if you should be ignorant of the English Tongue, the

¹¹ Bridenbaugh, *Rebels and gentlemen*, 53-55.

¹² Hocker, *Germantown*, 79, 80-82.

¹³ Minute book of the Trustees of the Concord School, HSP.

Tongue of your Country men. . . ."¹⁴ Pastorius' townsmen were evidently coming around to his way of thinking, as the founding of the Union and of the Concord schools shows.

By mid-century Germantowners showed a tendency not only to teach English in their schools but also to adopt a number of English—or at least of Philadelphia's—institutions for their own. The Library Company of Germantown, modeled on the pattern of the Library Company of Philadelphia, and organized in 1744, was one instance of this imitation. The Germantown library was housed until 1758 at Daniel Mackinnett's. Afterward it was for a time at James Delaplaine's and subsequently at Christian Lehman's. Annual meetings to elect trustees and a treasurer were held early in May, and the notices of these meetings inserted in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* by the several secretaries of the Company, George Palmer, Christian Lehman, Ulrich Meng, and John Johnson, constitute almost the only known record of the library for the whole twenty-seven years of its existence, from 1744 to 1771.¹⁵

Germantown's three fire companies, the best known of which was the Middle Ward Fire Company whose engine was housed in Market Square, were organized in 1764.¹⁶ They, too, underline the town's tendency to develop according to the English pattern. Even the English interest in sports and in sporting clubs received a nod from Germantown. The Germantowners did not form a club of their own, but a number of the town's residents, including Bensell, Mackinnett, John Jones, David Endt, Benjamin Engle, and Jacob Naglee, belonged to the fashionable Schuylkill fishing club, The Fishing Club of Fort St. Davids.

THE FINE ARTS

Music was cultivated with some care in Germantown, particularly during the town's first years. As might be expected, religious music predominated, since the performers were people whose religious concerns were paramount. Among the early settlers, the Hermits of the Wissahickon were known for their musical interests. These men believed in celebrating their God with song as well as with prayer and preaching, and to this end cultivated both choral and instrumental music. Evidently their excellence in this branch of Christian devotion was well known, for when Gloria Dei was dedicated in Philadelphia in 1700 the Hermits furnished the music.¹⁷

¹⁴ Quoted in Samuel W. Pennypacker, *The settlement of Germantown, and the beginning of the German emigration to North America*, 61.

¹⁵ A drawing of the seal of the Library Company of Germantown is in the Thomas H. Shoemaker Collection, portfolio 15. See also, E. V. Lamberton, *Colonial libraries of Pennsylvania*, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 42: 223 et seq., 1918.

¹⁶ Hocker, *Germantown*, 83–87.

¹⁷ For an account of the music, see Robert Rutherford Drummond, *Early German music in Philadelphia*, 5–29; Bridenbaugh, *Rebels and gentlemen*, 147, 154.



FIG. 13. JOHN MENG, 1734–1754, self-portrait. Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Virginals, organs, and probably clavichords were owned by residents of Germantown. The Hermits had brought along some musical instruments and Kelpius later asked that two clavichords be sent out for their use. They also either brought along or built an organ, for in 1728 the vestry of Christ Church in Philadelphia purchased one from Ludovic Christian Sproegel, one of their number. Dr. Christopher Witt also owned an organ, which he may have built himself, and he owned and played the virginals. Incidentally, one of the most delightful pieces of evidence regarding the status of music in Germantown is young John Meng's self-portrait. In this, Meng, instead of having in his hand the usual gun, brace of limp rabbits, or other dead game, holds a sheet of music.

John Meng's ability and talent are generally recognized and his early death (he died of a fever in the West Indies) deprived the colonies of a promising painter. He was the son of Christopher Meng, a solid citizen who seems to have had no understanding or sympathy for his son's skill and interests. So far as the world is concerned, however, John Meng had the last word in whatever family arguments there may have been over his choice of career. One of the three examples of his painting known today is a portrait of his father, a piece

of work which does nothing to prettify the latter's character on canvas.¹⁸

John Meng and Dr. Christopher Witt, whose portrait of Kelpius has been mentioned elsewhere, represent the sum of eighteenth-century Germantown's contribution to the fine art of portraiture, but they are sufficient to put the town among the very few places in pre-Revolutionary America to have produced even one artist whose name and whose work are of record and widely known today.

5. MATERIAL PROGRESS

In the settlement of any colony the first concerns of the colonists are likely to be food and shelter. Carpenters and masons, farmers and gardeners are the most valuable citizens until the forest has been cleared, houses built, and sufficient land put into cultivation to provide for the clerks, lawyers, merchants, and manufacturers who generally appear in force in a town after it is well established. It was the craftsmen who took up the land in German Township, however. These artisans were city dwellers in their homeland and unprepared for the kind of life the New World required of them. As a result the going was rough for a time, so rough, in fact, that Pastorius worriedly suggested that agricultural workers were needed instead,¹ if affairs were to be got moving satisfactorily. In spite of this handicap, Germantown quickly matured into a thriving borough. While townlots and sidelands were turned from woodland to pasture and arable fields, a healthy industrial life was also developed. Mills—grist mills, a fulling mill and "oyl" mill, paper mills—were built and put in operation, and the linen weavers set to work as soon as the first crop of flax was ready for their looms. Thus the townsmen, refusing to sink their old skills entirely in the business of subsistence farming, earned for Germantown the right to be called "the first distinctively manufacturing town in Pennsylvania."²

THE ART OF THE PRINTED WORD

Industrially, Germantown's chief contribution to the British colonial world was the introduction of an important new trade, papermaking. In 1690 William Rittenhouse, a native of Mülheim, set up a paper mill along the Wissahickon, the first such mill to be put in operation in British America. William Bradford, Quaker printer of Philadelphia, was one of Rittenhouse's partners in the business.

Once the mechanical problems incident upon the construction of the mill were solved, the partners were sure of success, for paper was always in short supply in the colonies and a printer who, like Bradford, had a paper

mill in his pocket, so to speak, was a fortunate man. Naturally enough, Bradford continued his interest in the mill even after he moved his printing business to New York, taking his share of the profits in kind. And it was probably Bradford's use of paper from the Germantown mill that started Pennsylvania's thriving trade in paper with the New York printers.³

The earliest reference to Rittenhouse's papermaking is found in Richard Frame's verses, printed by Bradford in 1692. John Holme, who wrote about conditions in the new colony in 1696, although his comments were not published until 1848, also mentions the paper mill. So did the writer of *An Historical and Geographical Account of the Province and County of Pennsylvania*, published in London in 1698. That the enterprise received so much notice is not surprising, for it was of prime interest to all printers and, consequently, to writers as well.

In 1710 William Dewees followed Rittenhouse's lead and built another paper mill, the second in the colonies, farther up the Wissahickon. These two mills introduced into Pennsylvania a business in which the colony and state maintained a leading position throughout the eighteenth century.⁴ Papermaking continued to be an important Germantown industry for many years and numerous other mills were built in the Township. When papermaking machinery was introduced early in the nineteenth century, however, the old mills which produced handmade paper gradually went out of business. Few of the Germantown papermakers seem to have adapted their mill properties to the new process and papermaking ceased to occupy Germantown capital and workmen to any great degree. The Megargee mills in operation in the 1850's provide the only really important exception to this statement.

Germantown made other technical contributions to the printing trade which helped to free the colonial printer from his dependence on European sources of supply. The development of the typefounding industry in Germantown in the 1770's was from the point of view of the printing trade second in importance only to the building of the paper mills here. Buying type abroad, as all colonial printers had had to do, was expensive and unsatisfactory. A printer ordering type from William Caslon or from another of the English or European typefounders could expect that there would be a long period of waiting before he would receive his order and, when it did arrive, he might find that it had been filled in part only, or, worse still, incorrectly filled. Next to a good supply of paper a printer obviously needed a reliable source of acceptable printing types, and in a way it is surprising that no colonial craftsman put his hand to the manufacture of this desideratum until about 1775. (Abel Buell of Killingworth, Connecticut, announced his intention of so doing in 1768, but he did not actually cast any type for printers until 1781.)

¹⁸ Bridenbaugh, *Rebels and gentlemen*, 169, and Sawitzky, *Catalogue*, 104-105, appraise Meng's work.

¹ Pennypacker, *Settlement of Germantown*, 86, 88.

² James M. Swank, *Progressive Pennsylvania*, 28.

³ Lawrence C. Wroth, *The colonial printer*, 128, 129.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 129.

We know that both Franklin and Christopher Sower I occasionally made "sorts," that is, one of the kinds of characters in any font of type, when emergencies in connection with some specific job arose. But this was not, strictly speaking, type casting. Neither was the experiment of Christopher Sower II, undertaken when he began to plan the third edition of the Bible in German about 1770. Realizing the convenience of having enough type on hand in his own shop to permit him to keep the entire work standing, Sower ordered moulds from Germany and set two of his workmen, Justus Fox and Jacob Bay, to the task of casting the necessary fonts. Since the matrices used by Sower's men were imported, the type they cast from them is not usually considered the first American-made printing type. When, however, Bay left Sower's employ and in 1774 set up his own typefoundry where he cut his own punches for the matrices from which the type was cast, New World typefounding was truly under way.

By 1775 American-made type was being used by Story and Humphrey to print the *Pennsylvania Mercury*, and the readers of that gazette were directed to make "patriotic allowance" for any deficiencies they might find in the appearance of the paper. Earlier in the same year, on January 23, the Pennsylvania Convention had resolved: "... that as printing types are now made to a considerable degree of perfection by an ingenious artist in Germantown; it is recommended to the printers, to use such type in preference to any which may be hereafter imported."⁵ After the Revolution, both Bay and Fox, working independently, cast type for Philadelphia printers, among them Francis Bailey, Mathew Carey, and Dunlap.

Not content with his typefounding activities, Justus Fox also went into the ink-making business, and became the first "specialist manufacturer of printing ink" in the United States. In the 1790's he regularly made and sold "winter" and "summer" inks in keg or in pot lots to printers of Philadelphia and the Middle States. Isaiah Thomas credits Christopher Sower I with making lamp black and printer's ink, and in all probability the Sowers, both father and son, and Franklin, too, made ink for their own use and occasionally sold some to other printers, but none of the three included the manufacture of ink as a regular part of his business.

Philadelphia was "the focal point of American typographical interest in the second half of the eighteenth century," according to Lawrence C. Wroth.⁶ Two of the factors responsible for the city's position were, in

Mr. Wroth's opinion, the papermaking and typefounding businesses carried on in the metropolitan area. It is hardly necessary to point out that both industries were conceived and first put into successful operation in Germantown.

THE INFLUENTIAL SOWERS

Christopher Sower I, Germantown's printing tycoon, came to Philadelphia in 1724, but it was not until 1738, after an unhappy sojourn at the Ephrata Community, that he began his amazing career as printer, journalist, and publisher. The first product of his press was *Eine Ernstliche Ehrmanung an Junge und Alte* (1738), the next was the first issue of his famous almanac, *Der Hoch Deutsch Americanische Calendar* (1739), which was published annually thereafter until 1777. In the same year, 1739, Sower printed his first complete book, a hymn book for the Ephrata Cloisters, and on August 20, 1739, the first number of his newspaper *Der Hoch-Deutsch Pensylvanische Geschichte Schreiber* appeared.⁷ Sower was now well launched in the printing business and the nature of his publishing interests was clearly indicated.

Sower's newspaper was not the first German paper to be printed in the colonies. In 1732 Benjamin Franklin had tried unsuccessfully to establish the *Philadelphische Zeitung* under the editorship of Louis Timothé but for some reason the paper did not appeal to the German-speaking residents of the colony, and it was left for Sower to establish the first successful German journal in Pennsylvania. His paper, *Der Hoch-Deutsch Pensylvanische Geschichte Schreiber*, had a continuous existence under various titles until 1777 and, what is more, it remained alone in the field for more than twenty years in spite of a number of attempts to get a competing paper established. At least five such journals were begun, but none had any real success until Henry Miller's *Wochentliche Philadelphische Staatsbote* came out in 1762.⁸ Sower's natural talent for journalism, the resources of his printing plant which were almost unparalleled in the colonies,⁹ his connections with the Ephrata Community, and his influence among the Pennsylvania Germans in general helped him to maintain his powerful and lucrative monopoly. His newspaper has been credited with having had about four thousand readers in 1753¹⁰; no wonder the politicians tried to check his influence, and other printers did their best to take over a portion of his journalistic preserve.

Without doubt, the most monumental and the most famous work to come out of Sower's printing house was his edition of the Bible in German, published in 1743.

⁵ Notice in *Pennsylvania Gazette*, February 1, 1775, quoted in Charles Francis Jenkins, *The guide book to historic Germantown*, 49.

⁶ Wroth, *Colonial printer*, 30. The account of Germantown's printing trade is based on this book of Mr. Wroth's, on his essay, The first work with American types, in *Bibliographical essays: A tribute to Wilberforce Eames*, and on Dard Hunter's *Papermaking: the history and technique of an ancient craft*, and *Papermaking in pioneer America*.

⁷ See article in *Dict. Amer. Biog.* 17: 415-416.

⁸ Clarence S. Brigham, *History and bibliography of American newspapers, 1690-1820* 2: 849-852, 918, 954, 962, 963.

⁹ Wroth, *First work with American types*, 140, states that the Sowers probably had the largest typographical establishment in the colonies.

¹⁰ Knauss, *Social conditions*, 5.

Sower printed Martin Luther's translation of the Old and New Testaments with additions from the Berleburg Bible of 1726.¹¹ This was the first Bible in a European language to be printed in America. When the equipment of the colonial printer is taken into account, Sower's energy and initiative in planning and executing so enormous a task four years after he had opened his shop are truly astonishing. His vision was justified, however. The first edition was sold out and two others were printed by his son, Christopher Sower II, the one published in 1763, the other in 1776.

Germantown declined as a center of printing after the Revolution. Christopher Sower II was dead and although his son Samuel Sower set up a press in Chestnut Hill about 1790 from which he issued a number of books and a weekly newspaper, the *Chesnuthiller Wochenschrift*, he was unable to restore the family business to anything resembling its old authoritative position. Four years later, in 1794, he transferred his establishment and his paper to Philadelphia.¹² The fact that Peter Leibert and Michael Billmeyer had been issuing *Die Germantäuner Zeitung*, a bi-weekly paper, from their office at 6505 Germantown Avenue since 1785 probably had something to do with Sower's lack of success. However, no issue of the Billmeyer journal is known after that for December 23, 1793, although the paper may have continued until 1799,¹³ and it is possible that there was less demand for the news in German than had been the case earlier in the century.

There was apparently no particular demand for a Germantown newspaper in English either, not then or for some years to come. The first English language newspaper known to have been printed in Germantown is the *Columbian Advocate* of which but one issue, the fourth, dated July 23, 1819, has been found.¹⁴ Evidently the Philadelphia papers—English or German—served the Township's residents satisfactorily until Philip Freas got the *Germantown Telegraph* going in the 1830's.

The Revolutionary years seem to have destroyed the last barriers separating Germantown and Philadelphia, and post-Revolutionary Germantown never fully reasserted its separate cultural identity. Nowhere is this shown more conclusively than in the changed status of the town's printing trade. Germantown once supported royally the largest printing house in the British colonies; but never again would it boast an establishment like the Sowers'. During the 1790's, printers, and those like Justus Fox who manufactured printers' equipment, began to move to Philadelphia, then the nation's capital and the center of wealth and culture. Generally speaking, the Federal Era was a period of

quiescence in Germantown. The independence and dynamism which had distinguished it in the middle years of the eighteenth century were lacking, and for a space the old town seemed content with the role of suburban satellite.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Another of Germantown's industries which got off to a good start, according to the town's early publicists, was the textile business. The curious thing about this is that, although many people talked or wrote about it, very little other evidence of the existence of such an industry remains. Peter Kalm remarked upon it. Andrew Burnaby wrote: "The Germantown thread stockings are in high estimation and the year before last I have been credibly informed there were manufactured in that town alone above 60,000 dozen pairs. . . ." And John Morgan, jr. gave indirect testimony to the extent of the stocking weaving business when he reported, "I understand that all the stocking weavers at Germantown with their looms and out of work supposed to be one hundred." This was in December of 1777 when the British were occupying the town.¹⁵ But except for comments of this sort, nothing much is known about Germantown's embryo textile industry.

Weaving was, of course, essentially a domestic industry at that time and left fewer traces by which its extent could be measured than did the tanneries, the grist mills, and the paper mills, all of which required special buildings and special equipment, and made a visible impression on the countryside. Whatever stocking and linen weaving business there was in eighteenth-century Germantown, both had pretty well died out by 1800, for only one of the Germantown taxables listed on the 1809 tax list is identified with the manufacture of textiles, namely, Jacob Clemens, a manufacturer of kerseys.¹⁶

In the nineteenth century, textile mills began to spring up. There were calico printing mills, Thomas Fisher's stocking mills, and later on there were carpet mills and mills for making a variety of other cotton and woolen goods. Today the textile business represents an important share in the industrial economy of the old Township. That being the case, the origins of this business deserve further investigation, particularly since the enthusiasm of the early pamphleteers and travelers for the products of the Germantown looms, both as regards the quality and the quantity of these products, is somewhat at variance with the facts as we know them.

OTHER TRADES

Two other industries of more than local importance flourished in Germantown in the middle and latter parts

¹¹ Anneliese Marckwald Funke, The Cassel Collection, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 67, 1943.

¹² Brigham, *op. cit.* 2: 838-839.

¹³ *Ibid.* 2: 852.

¹⁴ Original in the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.

¹⁵ Jenkins, *Guide book*, 21-22.

¹⁶ Thomas H. Shoemaker, A list of the inhabitants of Germantown and Chestnut Hill in 1809, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 15: 449-480, 1891; and 16: 42-63, 1892.

of the eighteenth century. Tanyards dotted the town, particularly in the area of Honey Run, and did a thriving trade. This business and the closely allied one of shoe manufacturing were among the more important Germantown industries of the early nineteenth century. As the forests of the surrounding countryside were cut down and the convenient supply of wood needed in the tanning operations was exhausted, the tanyards gradually closed, but for more than a hundred years they had contributed materially to Germantown's prosperity. Actually they seem to have been of greater importance to the town's economy during the eighteenth century than were the much discussed weaving and knitting trades.

In the field of transportation, too, Germantown made a notable contribution with the development of the "Germantown wagon." This was a lighter vehicle than the older chaise and it achieved a well deserved popularity with those who had to travel the uncertain roads of the interior. Both the Ashmeads and the Bringhursts were in the carriage-making business and both families have been credited with the invention of the Germantown wagon.

For the most part the other businesses in which Germantowners engaged were those immediately contributive to the local economy or to that of Philadelphia, rather than industries developed for their own sakes and without regard for a near-by market. Grist mills were built along the creeks bordering the Township. The Shoemakers had a mill for making linseed oil; and the burning of lime was evidently an important business and one for which Philadelphia provided a ready outlet.¹⁷ Germantown also had its quota of carpenters, stone masons, well diggers, butchers, bakers, store and tavern keepers, blacksmiths, coopers, tailors, and the other small tradesmen whose business was chiefly with their fellow townsmen.

6. INVASION

From the time of its founding to the outbreak of the American Revolution Germantown had enjoyed a fairly placid existence. It had experienced occasional Indian alarms, worried and argued through the Anglo-French wars, become excited over theological disputations and suffered the "invasion" of the Paxton Boys. In contrast to their relatives in "civilized" Europe, harassed by pillaging armies, the dwellers in the Germantown area of "Penn's Woods" led a pleasant existence.

Germantowners, of course, were not unaware of the deepening quarrel between Great Britain and her American colonies. They discussed the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, the Continental Congresses and, when the quarrel had apparently passed the stage of diplomacy and compromise, the fighting at Lexington and Concord. Much of what was transpiring had

seemed remote, but when the war moved into New York, then New Jersey, and finally into Pennsylvania, it came to their very hearths.

THE BATTLE

In the late summer of 1777 Sir William Howe landed his forces in Maryland. General Washington, in an effort to block Howe's path to Philadelphia, met him at Brandywine Creek on September 11 and suffered a defeat. He was, therefore, unable to oppose Howe's occupation of Philadelphia. After taking the city in the latter part of September, Howe, to protect its northern approaches, stationed his main army at Germantown. It was here that Washington, displaying great confidence in his troops despite the reverse at the Brandywine, decided to attack.

General Howe's main force was drawn up in the vicinity of Market Square, where Germantown Road, running north and south, was intersected by School House Lane. With his troops well entrenched facing the north, where the American forces were maneuvering, Howe's position was a formidable one.

In his scheme of attack, Washington planned to send columns of troops along the four routes to Market Square in a combined frontal and flanking movement. Accordingly, on the night of October 3, 1777, the main army, under Washington, began moving down Skip-pack Road to launch the frontal attack. General Armstrong proceeded along Manatawny Road (Ridge Road) with the object of crossing Wissahickon Creek and cutting off the British forces along School House Lane. To flank the British on the left, General Greene marched down Limekiln Road. Still farther to the left, Generals Smallwood and Foreman utilized Old York Road.

Contact was made early in the morning of the fourth, and when reports of the advancing Americans reached Howe, he gave them little credence, for he thought it unlikely that Washington would seriously challenge his strong position. Shortly, however, it became clear that a major attack was being launched.

For the Americans almost everything went wrong. A heavy fog descended and the natural obstacles imped-

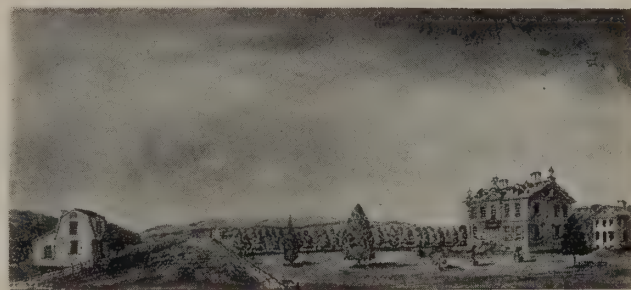


FIG. 14. Cliveden. This drawing of Benjamin Chew's house was made about 1777. Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

¹⁷ See the Petition of the inhabitants of Germantown for a road, in Logan Papers, 3: 31-32, in HSP.



FIG. 15. The attack upon Cliveden during the Battle of Germantown a romantic nineteenth century view. Painted by (Knoeller?). Reproduced by permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

ing their advance, such as streams, marshes, woods, and fences, became doubly difficult to deal with. In addition the fog obscured troop movements and increased the difficulties of command. As the advanced British troops were pushed back, Colonel Musgrave entered the strong Benjamin Chew house with several companies of soldiers and fought from this improvised fort with great tenacity. General Knox, the American artillery expert, argued that this pocket of resistance could not be bypassed safely. As a result much time was spent in an unsuccessful effort to reduce it, and the main attack was delayed at a critical point. Unfortunately, the columns in support of the center provided little assistance. Armstrong encountered little opposition, but he did not attack with aggressiveness. The time schedule was disrupted when Greene arrived late and Generals Smallwood and Foreman failed to arrive at all. The American troops were tired, after having marched all night, and the small food supply did nothing to improve morale.

These were the difficulties facing Washington, not to mention the fact that his enemy was capable, well-equipped, and determined. As the American attack lost its initial force, the British took full advantage of the situation and counter-attacked with vigor. The retirement of some of the American units led to a collapse all along the line and a general retreat followed.

Although Washington failed in his objective at Germantown, that failure was by no means a disaster for his army or for the American cause generally. The very fact that he attacked at all, after Brandywine, Paoli, and the loss of Philadelphia, indicated that there was still spirit and determination in the American Army, and that it was undoubtedly led by a man of courage and resolution. Howe, despite his superior equipment and numbers, was not confident enough to press his advantage and overrun his enemy. The American retreat had been orderly and Washington,

four days after the battle, wrote optimistically: "Upon the whole, our men are in high spirits, and much pleased with the fortune of the day, tho' not so completely lucky as could have been wished."¹

In its international and diplomatic aspects, particularly in its influence on the French, the Battle was of real significance, a point which should not be ignored. John Fitzpatrick, editor of the monumental *Writings of Washington*, asserts that Germantown, in combination with the American performances at Trenton and Brandywine, went far to convince the French that the Revolutionists would not end the war by a compromise with Britain.² An even stronger statement on the importance of Germantown is Alfred Hoyt Bill's:

That the Americans had attacked at all and, on being repulsed, had retired in good order deeply impressed observers in Europe, old Frederick the Great in particular. Politically, Germantown was an American victory hardly less potent than the surrender of Burgoyne in influencing France to come openly to the aid of the United States. Nothing, Count de Vergennes, the French minister of foreign affairs, told the American Commissioners, had impressed him so much as General Washington's attacking Howe's army: that to bring an army raised within a year to that point promised everything.³

The citizens of Germantown, naturally enough, did not share the detached, almost Olympian, view of the diplomats and historians. In Germantown people were faced with the disorder an occupying army invariably creates, with damaged property to repair, with business losses to recoup. Probably all the houses north of Market Square which were standing at the time suffered some damage—from stray bullets, from the use of the building as a temporary hospital, from the apparently wanton destruction to which soldiers of every nation and of every century seem prone. The Chew house, being the center of an engagement, suffered a great deal. The houses used as headquarters, Stenton and the Morris house by Howe, and Grumblethorpe by Agnew, fared better. But no one, after the battle and the occupation were at an end, could fail to find his house the worse for the presence of enemy troops in the town. The assessment of damages made after the departure of the British is a comprehensive report of the losses sustained by the residents.⁴ And the stories of personal experiences during that time of trial handed down from generation to generation are eloquent of the impress those weeks made upon the town's habits of thought.

THE FEVER

The next interruption of Germantown's normal existence came in the fall of 1793 when Philadelphia was

¹ Quoted in Bernhard Knollenberg, *Washington and the Revolution: a reappraisal*, 69.

² See *ibid.*, 93-94.

³ Alfred Hoyt Bill, *Valley Forge: the making of an army*, 74.

⁴ Assessment of damages done by the British troops during the occupation of Philadelphia, 1777-1778, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 25, 1901, for Germantown see pp. 329-332.

devastated by the yellow fever. Germantown was the closest of the uninfected areas in which the distracted Philadelphians could take refuge from the terrors of the plague, and soon the Great Road was crowded with wagons carrying men, women, and children to a safe retreat. Elizabeth Drinker, who had come out from town before the onset of the fever, reported in her journal the daily arrival of the refugees, the frantic struggle of these late comers to obtain accommodations, and the not unforgivable reluctance of many of the Germantowners to open their houses to residents of the city who might, they thought, bring infection with them.⁵ Humanitarianism, or desire for gain, triumphed over fear in most cases, however, and the houses and inns gradually filled. The available store space, too, was soon taken up by Philadelphia firms which no longer cared to try to do business in an almost deserted city.

During the fall months Germantown buzzed with the unusual activity. Distressing as was the cause of the upheaval, and sad as many of the families must have been, the atmosphere in general was one of excitement. People, relieved to be alive and well, found the stir and confusion pleurably stimulating. Particularly so, when the officers of the state and national governments, forsaking Philadelphia, began to converge on the town.

When the disease continued into October without much evidence of abating, Washington and other members of his administration began to be concerned about the possibility of convening Congress, scheduled to meet in Philadelphia in December, in another place should the capital city remain infected. Two questions had to be answered: could the President legally call a meeting of Congress in another city; and, if so, what place would be most suitable? A great many letters went back and forth between Washington, who was at Mount Vernon, and members of his cabinet.⁶ Before any conclusion could be arrived at, Washington decided to collect his cabinet in Germantown on November 1 and asked Edmund Randolph, who had been living at Nathan Spencer's house on Church Lane since the early part of September, to find him suitable lodgings. After making a thorough canvass of the possible houses, Randolph engaged rooms for Washington at the home of Frederick Herman, a teacher at the Union School and pastor of the Reformed Church in Market Square.

On October 28, Washington set out from Mount Vernon and reached Germantown on November 1. Jefferson accompanied him from Baltimore and took lodgings at the King of Prussia tavern. Later, Washington moved to the house of Colonel Franks (5442 Germantown Avenue) and here he remained for the

⁵ Elizabeth Drinker's journal entries are quoted in Jenkins, *Washington in Germantown*, 37-54.

⁶ Many of these are printed in *ibid.*, 68-87.



FIG. 16. The drawing room at the Deshler-Morris house. Photograph reproduced by permission of the National Park Service.

rest of his stay in the town. Throughout the month, Washington and his cabinet met to consider the question of a meeting place for Congress, and the preparation of the President's address to that body, and began to put into an ordered state the nation's business unraveled by the yellow fever.

By the middle of November, it was apparent, even to the sceptical, that the epidemic was at an end. John Beckley writing to James Madison on November 20 remarked:

... there is not known a single case of the yellow fever in the City or its Suburbs; the Citizens have returned almost universally, the public Offices are all opened, as well as all the public & private Seminaries, business of every kind is resumed, the markets as fully attended & supplied as ever, and in short no vestige of the late calamity remaining except in the mournful remembrance of those whose friends & relatives have fallen victims to it.⁷

Jefferson went back to Philadelphia on November 29, Washington and the other officers returned at about the same time, and when Congress met on December 2, it convened in its usual place in the State House.

Germantown was left to resume its normal ways for a season. No longer were beds in inns and taverns at a premium, no longer were the streets crowded with strangers. This—and subsequent invasions of the town by Philadelphians fleeing the plague—is usually credited with having been the means of stirring Germantown awake, bringing it out of its foreign shell and into the world at large. It might be more precise to reverse the statement and say that the world, the world of politics and of fashion, that is, discovered Germantown as a result of the yellow fever, rather than Germantown the world. True, a fair number of Philadelphians had been coming to Germantown to live or to visit since the middle of the century, but as a result of the fever, a much

⁷ *Ibid.*, 218-219.

larger segment of Philadelphia's population, both native and those temporarily resident in the city because of their connection with the Federal government, came to know and to like Germantown. Washington, for example, liked the town and Colonel Franks' house well enough to return again with Mrs. Washington for several months the following summer. A year or so later, Gilbert Stuart rented a house and studio (5140 Germantown Avenue) in Germantown, in order to escape the pressure of the curious whose constant visits kept him from working in Philadelphia. Another artist, Charles Willson Peale, settled here for a time, at Bel-field. And a goodly number of men of wealth and position found it pleasant to have country houses in Germantown.

The old thesis that the Americans of English descent who flooded Germantown periodically during the 1790's materially changed the town's character and outlook probably stems from the fact that Germantown did experience another flowering in the years between 1790 and 1815. Community interest blossomed much as it had done in the 1750's and 1760's. There was another building boom, and many of the old houses were remodeled and enlarged. During these years three new churches established congregations in the town: the

Methodist, the Presbyterian, the Episcopalian. A turnpike company was organized in 1799, a new library company was established in 1807, Mount Airy College was founded in the same year, and in 1814 the National Bank of Germantown was chartered. All these sorts of enterprises, however, were characteristic manifestations of the energetic society of the newly-established Republic and it is likely that Germantown would have developed them without the prodding of the refugees from the yellow fever. The precise nature of the stimuli provided by the yellow fever and the degree to which they were effective will remain undetermined until a full-dress study is made of another invasion of Germantown—the invasion of the area before 1775 by ideas then current in Philadelphia. There is evidence that this interchange was considerable but it has been almost entirely ignored by historians. An examination of the cultural relations between the capital city of colonial Pennsylvania and its nearest satellite would be worth making and might well result in the overthrow of some ancient clichés of Germantown history.

7. CONCLUSION

There is small doubt that geography influenced the development of German Township to a very consider-



FIG. 17. Germantown Road "from the Golden Swan Tavern before coming to Mt. Airy." The two wagons rolling along the Turnpike are a happy indication of the very considerable amount of traffic which crowded this road in the first half of the nineteenth century. Drawn by Charles Alexandre Lesueur. Reproduced from the photostat collection of Lesueur's drawings in the American Philosophical Society.

able degree. The town's founders conceived of their community as an independent one. Pastorius commented in a letter dated March 4, 1684: "I for my part would well wish that we might have a separate little province, and be so much the more free from all oppression. . . ." But the Township's location, six miles from Philadelphia on the Great Road to the back country, quickly fixed it among the economic satellites of the colonial metropolis; and the climate, much pleasanter in summer than Philadelphia's, induced many residents of the city to establish country homes in Germantown and in consequence contributed not a little to the ending of the "separate little province."

The political and judicial independence which had seemed to be ensured by Penn's charter of 1689 was lost when that charter was revoked in 1707, but it was not until 1777, when Sower's empire collapsed, that the end of the cultural separation between the two communities, Germantown and Philadelphia, was clearly indicated. In fact, the history of Germantown from its founding through the eighteenth century could be written as the struggle between the forces pulling the community into an ever closer union with Philadelphia and the forces which struggled to maintain Germantown's identity, at least on a cultural level. Sooner or later evidence of the contest appears in every phase of the Township's history, in records of land ownership, in the architecture of the houses which lined the Great Road for two miles within the Township's area, in religion, in education, and in politics. Only during the Sower era, Germantown's great years, was the fight carried on openly and with any degree of success for the separatists. In the earlier years and during the post-Revolutionary period, the centripetal forces operated with little opposition to draw the town and its residents into the metropolitan web.

The widely divergent opinions of the German element in Pennsylvania which historians, politicians, and others have expressed from the time of Logan and Franklin to the present are among the more remarkable phenomena of American historiography. Franklin and Provost William Smith were united in their contempt for the

"Palatine Boors," but their objections appeared to hang, with the magnificent illogicality of politics, on the activity and influence of the German printing presses, among which Christopher Sower's was both the largest and in all probability the most effective. Even the unwary should spot this as simon-pure propaganda and begin to look for the real issues behind the verbal screen, and it is quite possible that Franklin's and Sower's contemporaries were less affected by the propaganda line laid down by the empire builders of the mid-eighteenth century than latter day historians have been. Not all the contemporary Pennsylvanians of English origin decried the Pennsylvania Germans. Lieutenant Governor George Thomas spoke well of them. Lewis Evans entered a dissenting opinion in their behalf and so did Benjamin Rush.¹ Nevertheless, the received or Franklin opinion continued to prevail through the nineteenth century and even into the twentieth, and the *obiter dicta* of political prejudice, fostered by that narrow provincialism which disparages anything that varies, however slightly, from the accepted norm, have enjoyed an all too ready acceptance in historical writing.

A reappraisal of the Germans of Germantown is in order—even a brief survey of the standard materials relating to the town makes that clear. Indeed, the principal thesis growing out of this survey may be stated in two related questions: one, just how far was eighteenth-century Germantown dominated by a provincial German culture; and, two, were not Germantown's greatest contributions made during the period of this traditional and much deprecated German ascendancy? To answer either question fully would be impossible at this time. A definite answer could only follow an intensive investigation of the great wealth of material available on Germantown history. We hope that such an investigation may some day be made. It would be a worth while endeavor, one which would place Germantown properly in its eighteenth-century setting and show more precisely its relationship to Philadelphia and to the Pennsylvania German hinterland.

¹ Richard H. Shyrock, The Pennsylvania Germans in American history, *Penna. Mag. Hist. and Biog.* 63: 261-262, 1939.

PART II. THE ARCHITECTURE

GRANT MILES SIMON

"The distribution of buildings is to be adapted to the vocations of their owners."
Vitruvius, *De Architectura*, Book 1, C 11.

1. THE BUILDING OF THE VILLAGE

In 1683 what is now Germantown was a wilderness with only a legendary Indian trail more or less on the route now known as Germantown Avenue. A hundred years later, it was a prosperous community with the amenities common to a town of comparable size anywhere in the nation.

It is a most unusual example of the development of human habitations in this short span of time, from the caves and huts of the early settlers to the mansions of the nineteenth century. The progress recorded in the whole history of architecture is illustrated here in the work of a few generations.

The materials used were found on the site, the timber of the several kinds best adapted to their purpose and a local stone easily cut and formed into building blocks for the foundations and walls of the buildings. The stone is found only in a very limited area in and around Germantown and is one of the characteristics of its architecture. The houses were no larger than necessity demanded. They were built in the simplest and most frugal manner. In the early days of the settlement, iron and other metals as well as glass were either not obtainable or were too expensive for common use. Hides, wood, and bark were ingeniously contrived as substitutes.

This was an indigenous architecture giving way slowly with the passing years to the mannerisms and affectations of "Federal architecture."

The building of the village by the mystics, scholars, and artisans who made up its first families from its beginnings to its culmination, the cosmopolitan architecture of the nineteenth century, may be considered as divisible into several fairly well defined parts which do not always follow each other in exact chronological sequence. The first houses, of which there are no remains and very little record of any kind, can still be assumed to be the huts or cellars of the thirteen families used during the first winter, and probably for some succeeding years.

In the absence of actual documentation for these primitive shelters, we may gain some idea of their probable size and construction from Penn's "Tract of Information and Direction to such Persons as are inclined to America." He recommended a one-story house, thirty feet long and eighteen feet wide with a partition in the middle and another at the end to provide three rooms in all. He gave in detail the number and caliber of the trees necessary to provide the proper lumber. Clapboards were required for the roof and

for the ceiling. The floor was dirt, well packed. The single chimney, made either of wood or stone, was placed in the gable wall, with a stone hearth. The windows were slots in the logs, covered with wooden shutters. The ceiling was sometimes covered with dirt, according to Kalm, to serve as a thermal insulation. He also recites conversations with some of the settlers which indicate that in severe weather it was their custom to cover the chimney caps at night after the fire had died down, to prevent what heat remained from escaping. But, as this meant climbing a ladder to the roof, it was found to be inconvenient, particularly on a snowy night.

The second group would include the more permanent houses. Some of these were probably built of logs, a few of stone. It is possible that the Heydrick house, H. I. 170,¹ demolished only in 1909, should be in-



FIG. 18. Mermaid Lane and Germantown Avenue. Heydrick-Yeakle log house on left ("settlement") demolished 1909. Mermaid Hotel on right. Reproduced by permission of the Library of Congress.

cluded in this group. It is shown in John Richards' drawings of Germantown, which he made between 1863 and 1888. He also has a drawing of the log prison in the Market Square, made from a sketch "said to have been made in 1702." The house that Hans Milan built about 1690, H. I. 104, and the Heivert Papen house of 1698, H. I. 132, illustrate the character and size of the stone houses that succeeded the first temporary shelters.

The enlargement of these small houses, to accommodate the growing families, is characteristic of the next step in the growth of the community. The addition to the Naglee house, H. I. 5, could be cited as an example of this custom. These houses were usually one story and a garret. While "Stenton" was built at this

¹ The notation H. I. followed by a number refers to the Historic Index on the two large maps printed on the endleaves of this volume.



FIG. 19. The "Naglee" House, 4518 Germantown Avenue. From a drawing by John Richards, 1870. Courtesy of Germantown Historical Society.

time, Logan was far removed in birth and training from the religious pilgrims of the first settlement. His house is the home of a gentleman, who was at times the acting governor of the province, and not the home of a pilgrim only a few years removed from a primitive hut.

The additions to the early houses, like the original houses, were built to serve a pressing need. No effort was made to conform to an orderly arrangement of doors and windows. The additions were made where they were most needed and the outside openings placed where they served to the greatest advantage; that they might for this reason have a certain naïveté to modern eyes certainly never occurred to the builders. But, as the families prospered, they needed larger quarters and more orderly ones. In the two-story houses now required to satisfy their needs, some attention was given to the appearance of the building. Whether the entrance door was at the side, or in the middle of the street front, as in the larger houses, it was placed with obvious care. Even some symmetry was attempted, on the street side at least. Houses such as the Ottinger, H. I. 9, the Bardsley, H. I. 136, and the Detwilers, H. I. 187 and H. I. 190, are typical.

By the middle of the century, the way of living in the community and the architecture which served it had achieved a definite pattern. Grumblethorpe, H. I. 43; The Green Tree, H. I. 102; the Johnson house, H. I. 119; the Billmeyer house, H. I. 138; and the Engle house, H. I. 94, with their more comfortable rooms, ample proportions, gables and pent eaves, are of the essence of colonial Germantown. Their precise chronology is of secondary importance. The types were created, as Vitruvius said two thousand years ago, for "the vocations of their owners." These houses are

Germantown. Their particular character is not found elsewhere in the colonies. They are sturdy and comfortable, there is no extraneous ornament, the details are simple, there is no pretense. If they are found to have elements of beauty it is because their builders had some innate knowledge of composition and fenestration.

But by the end of the century the houses reflect the many influences of the new prosperity. While they are conveniently recognized as "Federal" architecture, they are less a part of the development of a community architecture than a national one. Upsala, H. I. 134; Loudoun, H. I. 6; Vernon, H. I. 83; the Blair house, H. I. 108; Pomona, H. I. 125; the Hill House, H. I. 210; and the Elkinton house, H. I. 139, are all interesting examples of the "new" architecture, but their urbanity savors less of Germantown than of the cities of the middle colonies.

The earliest existing recorded house was built by Hans Milan in 1690 (H. I. 104). It is now part of the rear of Wyck. The major portion of the house was built in the eighteenth century, and was altered in 1824 by William Strickland for Reuben Haines. It is a pleasant house, set in a charming garden, and unique in the annals of American domestic architecture because the same family has occupied it continuously since it was first built. There may be parts of other buildings of the same antiquity forming portions of later and larger houses, but their existence can be determined only by careful archeological research.

The Naglee house, H. I. 5, just north of Wayne Junction, illustrates to advantage the early, one-story stone house of Germantown. It was built, in part, before 1740. The slope of the original roof can be traced on the gable wall, as the present roof dates from the nineteenth century. The transverse stone wall bisecting the building indicates that the first house consisted of only one room, about 15 by 26 feet, with an attic or garret over it. Another example of this kind was the old Johnson house, H. I. 132, built before 1700, which stood at the northwest corner of



FIG. 20. "Heivert Papen" House, 6400 Germantown Avenue, built 1698, demolished 1883. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Germantown Road and Johnson Street until its demolition in 1883. It differed from the Naglee in that it had a gambrel roof and dormers, and an addition in the rear.

The William Wynne Wister house, H. I. 29, warranted national recognition because in a small stone building on the rear of the property Gilbert Stuart worked during the years from 1796 to 1799. It now serves as a site for a super-market. In 1942, during the demolition of the house, Mr. George Clarence Johnson made careful surveys and recorded the position of the walls of an earlier building, which occupied the southeast corner of the main part of the Wister home. It consisted of only two rooms with a central chimney and fireplaces, and a winding stair to the floor above. The house measured 17 × 32 feet outside, following closely Penn's recommendation for size.

In a number of other instances, buildings or parts of them, dating it is believed from the early eighteenth century, were incorporated in houses of the Colonial and Federal periods. As the early houses were usually set back from the road, it was possible, when the later and larger houses were built, to place them on the street line, the older building serving as a kitchen. What is now the rear wing of the Trinity Lutheran Church house, H. I. 51, was originally a separate house, about 17 by 22 feet. The house fronting on the road was added later and finally the two were joined. The Bardsley house, though suffering from nineteenth-century alterations, is a charming example of the early period, H. I. 136. The rear wings of the Mathieu, H. I. 137, and the Elkinton, H. I. 139, houses are much earlier than their precise Federal fronts.

But while the Germantown Road, in the first part of the eighteenth century, was bordered principally with small houses, there were notable exceptions. Stenton, H. I. 4, was built by James Logan, 1728-1734, as his country home. It is a manor of a size compatible with the importance of its owner. The mansion is comparable in its simple dignity with its English antecedents. The whole estate, in Logan's time, comprised some eight hundred acres. "Grumblethorpe," H. I. 43, was built some twenty years later by John Wister, also as a summer house. It is not as grand as Stenton. John Wister, a successful merchant, wanted only a place remote from his business activities. Logan, in his capacity as Penn's agent, was required to entertain visiting dignitaries, even if they were only Indian chieftains, with the formality consistent with proprietary authority. While Stenton could have been comfortable in an English countryside, it was sufficiently imposing with its borrowed Georgian façades to serve its purpose in the province of Pennsylvania.

Grumblethorpe, on the contrary, is the culmination of a natural evolution. It is eighteenth-century Germantown, and nothing else. And there were other houses, the Johnson, H. I. 119; the Laurens, H. I.

105; and Wyck, H. I. 104, equally well founded in the tradition of the town, rapidly changing the Great Road into the Main Street of Germantown.

The Johnson house, H. I. 119, was erected in the years 1765 to 1768 by Dirck Jansen, again in front of an earlier house. It is ample and comfortable and shares with Grumblethorpe the peculiar character of the early village houses with its broad gables and pent-eaves. The street front is carefully laid with "dressed" stone, nowhere to better advantage. The Johnson family occupied the house until 1917, when it became the Women's Club of Germantown. Across the old road from Wyck is an inn built by Daniel Pastorius, H. I. 102. The great gables and low pents suggest the hospitality of a public house that served for many generations under such alluring names as "The Saddler's Arms," "The Hornet's Nest," and "The Green Tree Tavern."

Only a few steps away on the west side of the road is the house built by Benjamin Engle, H. I. 94. The house originally stood on the street. It was moved to its present unfortunate location because of the commercial development along the street. At least it has been saved from destruction and, while the interiors are mutilated, the old house with its fine pents and gables retains much of the quality of another day in Germantown.

The main road of the village, H. I. 1, was a mile long in 1700; by the middle of the century it was, as Kalm and others have noted, two miles in length. There were also a church road, a school house road, a lime-kiln road, a paper-mill road, and several smaller lanes.

In the years following the middle of the century, a number of substantial houses were erected. The most pretentious was, of course, Cliveden, H. I. 133, built by Benjamin Chew in 1763. The front wall is made of "dressed stone," the gables and backs of pointed field stone as described by Kalm. The architecture is derived from "Georgian" precedent, with a large central hall and drawing rooms of a size consistent with the importance of a Chief Justice. It is also remark-



FIG. 21. The Market Square, from an early drawing. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

able in that, except for a very few years, title to the property has been exclusively in the Chew family. The large and well kept grounds add immeasurably to the stature and charm of this national landmark.

The Monastery, the Gorgas House, H. I. 231, the Livesey house, known also as Glenfern, H. I. 229; the Detwiler house, H. I. 190, are all monuments of the period, each with a distinctive character and appeal.

These houses were all of stone. The same kind of stone has been the material most commonly used for outside walls ever since that time. It is an unusual stone. Kalm, in 1748, noted several varieties, generally of gray or black mica, running in undulated veins, the spaces between them filled with a gray, loose, fine grained limestone. Particles of quartz were found in the mass most of which consisted of mica. Kalm notes that the stone is easily cut and can, with proper tools, be readily made into any form. It was abundant at that time in fields and meadows at a depth of from two to six feet. Some of the pieces were from eight to ten feet long and of substantial thickness. Smaller stones were found nearer the surface, many on the ground.

Kalm observed the custom, then prevalent, which he considered unusual, of building cellars entirely underground, with stone walls. These rooms were "fit to live in" and were used as pantries, woodsheds, kitchens, or spare rooms; merchants often kept their goods in them. He says that the garrets or attics of the houses were provided with windows, "so that servants at least could in the summer live in them comfortably."

Kalm found that barns were about the size of a small church, with a high roof, covered with shingles. The supporting walls were usually not more than the height of a man. The salient characteristic was the center door placed on opposite sides of the building, making it possible for a farm wagon to drive through. This passage served as a threshing floor, with storage for grain on either side. On the lower level were stalls for horses and cattle.

With few exceptions, the barns and the houses were roofed with shingles of white cedar. In later years a burned clay tile was used. This tile was made with a small projection which lapped over a lath so that no nails or pegs were required to hold it in place. The Unruh house is known to have had this kind of roof.

The first brick house to be built in Germantown is believed to be the Fromberger house constructed at the northeast corner of Church Lane and the Market Square. Contemporary diaries refer to it as "the brick house," which would seem to identify it as a novel type of building. The Germantown Fire Insurance Company now has its offices in the building, following a careful reconstruction by Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A. The long, plain façade with a dissymmetrical fenestration has a simple elegance, favoring the do-



FIG. 22. "Loudoun," 4650 Germantown Avenue. Photo. 1912. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

mestic architecture of Philadelphia rather than Germantown. It was doubtless in its day thought to be the most sophisticated building in the town, H. I. 69.

The austere stone buildings of the Germantown Academy, H. I. 63, reflect the distinguished record of this early school, associated for all time with the irascible character of one of the first masters, the difficult but lovable David James Dove. The Academy, built by individual subscriptions, had school rooms on two floors lighted with large windows. It could boast of none of the features of a present day school, but generations of good Americans and some very distinguished ones were bred in this environment.

The aspirations of the new nation, stimulated by the apparently successful termination of the Revolution, were inevitably reflected in the architecture of the times. The plain houses, ample for an earlier time, were no longer adequate for the demands of a new prosperity.

Upsala, H. I. 134, was built in 1798 by John Johnson, a descendant of the Jansens who were among the first settlers. The pointed field stone, the pent-eaves, and the wide gables so characteristic of the colonial houses here were replaced with smooth, stucco walls lined in imitation of cut masonry, the windows are narrower and higher, the cornices and mouldings are restrained. Every effort is made to allow the studied relation of solids, voids, and surfaces to achieve their full elegance. The interiors are planned with equal care; the rooms are gracious and the details delicate. It is reminiscent of contemporary houses in the environs of Paris. Vernon, H. I. 83, which was purchased in 1812 from James Matthews by John Wister, has a similar architecture.

The houses of this kind were no longer built on the street line but were placed in the midst of well-planted grounds. Commodious steps lead to the entrance door, the master and his guests now arrive by carriage,

servants will take the equipages to the comfortable stables, and within the house the guests will find a hospitality equal to any in Europe.

At the other end of the town, on the great hill overlooking the Schuylkill Valley, Thomas Armat built Loudoun, H. I. 6. No other house in the town had such a magnificent setting. The porticoed entrance, surmounted with a fine pediment and flanked by well proportioned wings, still marks with some of its ancient grandeur the southern end of the Old Road.

In less than a hundred years, the natural evolution of the architecture of Germantown, which had reached such a charming expression in houses like the Johnson house and Grumblethorpe, was atrophied by the imposed conventions of the "new style," what is now known as "Federal architecture." This urge for a restrained classicism was felt not only in Germantown but throughout the nation. It marked the end of the period that had given Germantown a unique architecture of its own.

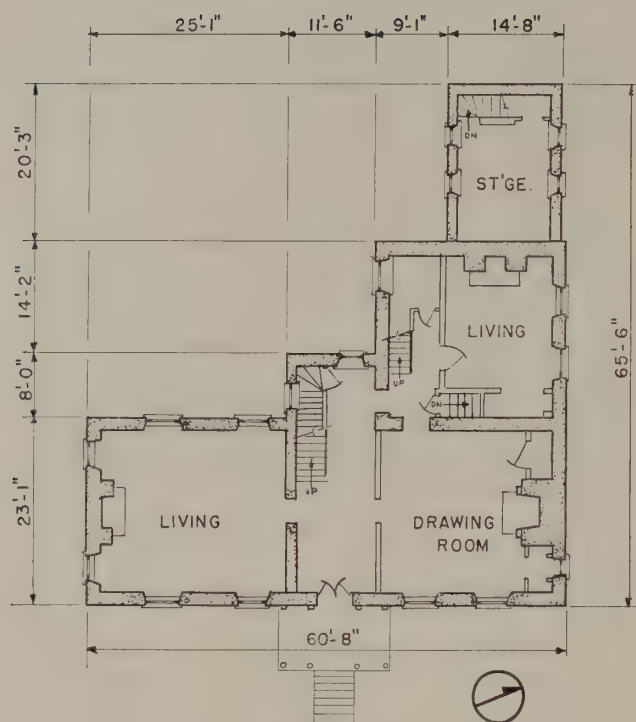
2. THE SURVEY

The identification of those buildings which, either because of historical associations or architectural interest, seem worthy of preservation has been a major purpose of this survey of Historic Germantown. Over a hundred such buildings have been found to be extant. With the exception of a few of the pretentious houses, these buildings are more important as a group illustrating the development of an early American community than because of their individual claims to architectural distinction or historical value. Comment on the town's mansions has been kept to a minimum, since they have been discussed in detail in many books.

Since this was a preliminary study, complete surveys were made of only twelve houses. Full use was made of the surveys of fourteen others prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey. In so far as it was feasible, the present study conforms to the procedures suggested by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Dimensioned floor plans, photographic illustrations, and a description of each building as it exists today with comments on its state of preservation and its historical and architectural significance have been provided. Additional research should follow to complete the archaeological and historical record of the Township.

WAKEFIELD

16th and Lindley Streets



Wakefield (Federal, H. I. 3) was built by Thomas Fisher about 1800. Fisher, a member of the firm of Joshua Fisher and Sons, was a founder of the Westtown School, a manager of the Pennsylvania Hospital and a member of the American Philosophical Society.

An excellent example of simple Federal house architecture, Wakefield is three and a half stories high and has a half cellar. The exterior stone walls are covered with stucco and are in good repair. The building is 60 feet 8 inches long and 23 feet deep. Extensions to the rear increase the total depth to 65 feet 6 inches. The rear wing, 14 feet 8 inches by 20 feet, is a modern addition. The older part of the house has a wood shingle roof in good condition. The modern addition has a built-up roof. The main wood cornice is simple and well preserved.

The entrance door under the porch leads to a central hall, 10 feet wide, which contains the main stairs. On the left is a living room, 20 feet by 24 feet. On the right is the drawing room, 18 feet by 20 feet. The interior is generally in good condition. Some of the original first floor framing is intact. The bolts, lock, and hinges of the front door are believed to be part of the original hardware. The trim and flooring throughout the house are either old or a good restoration. There have been no major interior alterations, except in the caretaker's portion, where partition changes have been made, and in the third floor, where a bathroom has been added.

The house stands in a park owned by the City of Philadelphia, and is now in the custody of the Society of Colonial Dames. The grounds are properly maintained.

Photograph by Earle N. Barber, 1954.

STENTON

18th and Courtland Streets

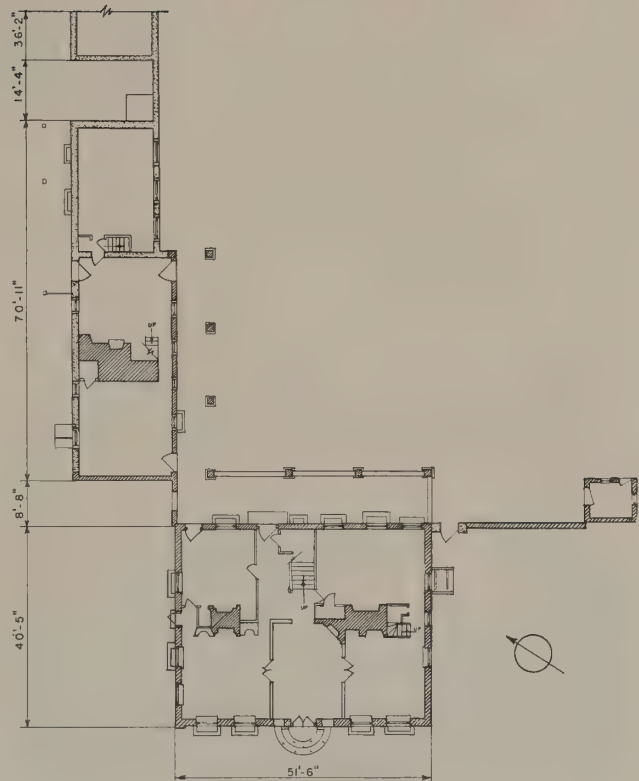
Stenton (Colonial, H. I. 4) was built by James Logan between 1728 and 1734. Logan was Provincial Secretary and one of the most important and many-sided men in the colony. In a room extending across the entire second floor front of Stenton, Logan assembled a library justly famous among his contemporaries. During the Revolution, both Washington and Howe made Stenton their headquarters for brief spaces of time. In the latter decades of the century George Logan and his wife, Deborah, were master and mistress of the mansion. George Logan was a determined Jeffersonian in politics, and a scientific farmer in his private life. His wife was a notable hostess and blue stocking.

Stenton is one of the most beautiful of the early houses, and since the outbuildings, which were an integral part of the estate, still exist in their entirety, it is of unusual interest to architectural historians. The main building is large, with a front of almost 52 feet and a depth of 40 feet. In the rear to the left of the main house is the kitchen and office wing. This extends 121 feet with an irregular width of 20 feet. The kitchens, 46 feet deep, composed of two rooms with a common chimney and connected to the house by a one-story covered porch, form the front part of this wing. The hipped roof of the main house is typical of the Georgian houses of the period. The service wing has a gable roof.

Three stone steps, semi-circular in plan, lead to the entrance door which has a transom and slightly curved head but is without other ornamentation. The hall is 14 feet wide by 19 feet deep. On either side are double doors leading to the dining room on the left and to a parlor on the right. Each room is about 18 feet by 19 feet. A large archway gives access to an ample stair hall on the north; on the left of this is a smaller dining room or breakfast room, 15 feet by 16 feet, and on the right a parlor, 15 feet by 22 feet. Two chimney stacks provide fireplaces in each of these rooms. The floors are of brick laid on the ground. The walls are panelled to the ceilings in wood and painted. The library occupies the south side of the second floor. Two bedrooms are on the north. The third floor is contained in the hip roof and is lighted by dormer windows.

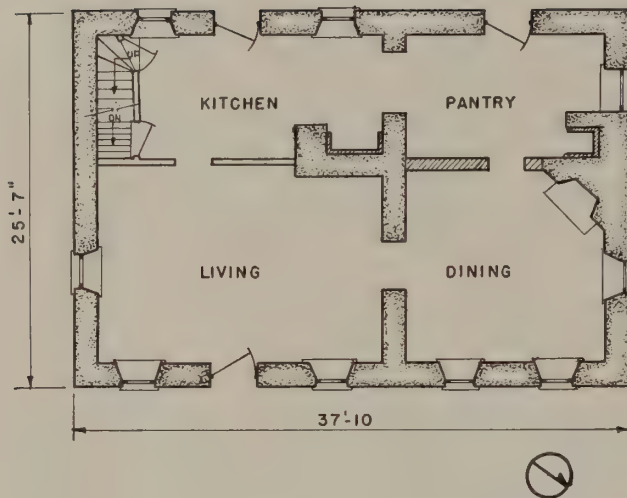
The building is maintained in good repair by the City. It is used as a museum and is in the custody of the Society of Colonial Dames. Logan's estate, which included more than eight hundred acres, is now largely an industrial area but five acres have been preserved as a park.

Photographs by Earle N. Barber, 1954.



THE NAGLEE HOUSE

4518 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Naglee House (Colonial, H. I. 5) is one of the older Germantown houses. It was owned by John Naglee from 1727 to 1752.

The house, one and a half stories high with a half cellar, measures 37 feet 10 inches by 25 feet 7 inches. The exterior walls are of stone and the front is covered with stucco. The 20 inch wall separating the present living and dining rooms and the construction in the cellar indicate that the two parts were built at different times. The portion of the house north of the transverse interior stone wall has no cellar, and in all probability was the earlier house. The portion to the south of this wall has a full cellar. The original building lines are indicated on the gable walls and it is evident from these that the roof was once

several feet lower than it is at the present time. The dormers may be part of the later addition.

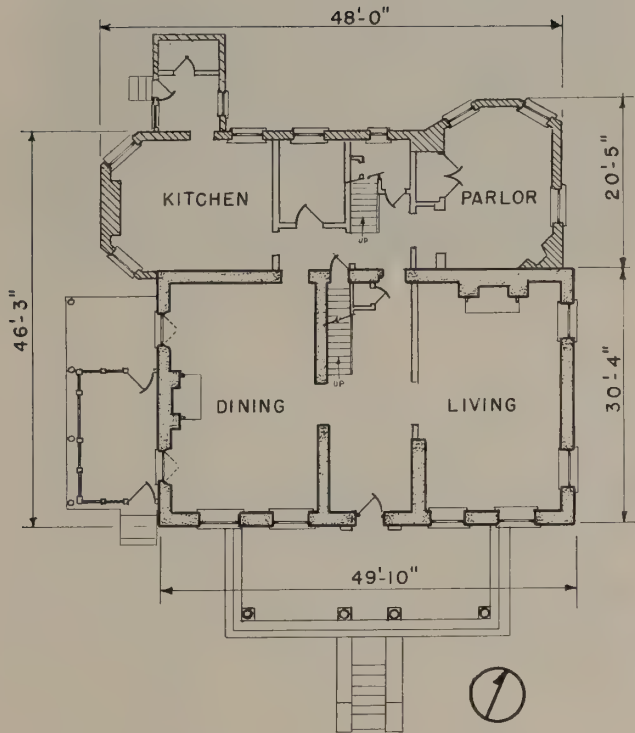
The living room is 13 feet 6 inches wide and 19 feet 4 inches long. The dining room is about 13 feet 6 inches square. The kitchen is about 8 feet 5 inches wide and has a winding boxed stair at one end. There is a fireplace at the other end. This has been sealed.

Many of the original beams are in place and the random plank flooring is believed to be early. Other than this, little of the interior work remains. The partitions have been changed in the bedrooms and a bath added to the second floor.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock about 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

LOUDOUN

4650 Germantown Avenue



a

Loudoun (Federal, H. I. 6) was built about 1801 for Thomas Wright Armat. Armat, like his father, Thomas Armat, was a Philadelphia merchant. His granddaughter, Anna, married Gustavus George Logan and Loudoun remained in the possession of the Logan family until 1939, when Maria Dickinson Logan willed it to the City.

Loudoun, the most imposing of all the Federal houses in Germantown, stands on Naglee Hill, some 30 feet above the Avenue and some 100 feet back from it. It is two stories high, with a third floor in the gambrel mansard roof. There is a full cellar. The original house, a plain rectangle in plan, 50 feet on the front and 29 feet 6 inches deep, is the southeast part. It is built of stone covered with stucco. The high wooden porch and the rear brick building, irregular in plan, are later additions. The west gable has a gambrel roof which parallels the front of the house to the east where it returns on itself to form a sort of

mansard. There is no evident reason for this peculiarity. The roof is covered with tin. The two dormers have arched sash with pilasters on either side carrying a full cornice and pediment. The one-story sun porch on the southwest is 10 feet wide and 24 feet long. It is an unusual arrangement for a Germantown house and suggests the side porches of Charleston, South Carolina.

Three wooden steps form the approach to the two story porch, which is 30 feet wide and 11 feet deep. Four plain columns, 2 feet in diameter and about 19 feet high, support a full cornice and low pediment. The order is an adaptation of that of the Tower of the Winds in Athens. The central doorway of wood has an arched head and fanlight, and is flanked by engaged columns and a small cornice. The door is 3 feet wide, 7 feet 1 inch high, and has 8 moulded panels.

The center hall, leading to the stairs on the left, at the far end, is 10 feet wide. The drawing or living

room is on the right and is 18 feet wide by 27 feet 4 inches long with a fireplace in the end wall. The dining room, on the left of the hall, is 17 feet by 27 feet 1 inch. Both of these rooms are entered from the hall through single doors, 3 feet by 7 feet.

The stairs are built around an open well and lead to a hall on the second floor. A bedroom, 9 feet by 10 feet, occupies the end of the hall. Over the living room there are two rooms: a sitting room, with a fireplace in the southwest wall supported by a stone partition wall below; and a study with a fireplace over the one in the living room. The second floor over the dining room is divided into a bedroom, bath, and dressing room. The bedroom has a fireplace over the one in the dining room. The bath and some of the partitions are part of the later additions. The third floor is divided into a number of small and irregularly shaped rooms, closets, and storage spaces.

The first and second floor windows are double hung with a narrow plank-front frame. The sash are 3 feet 8 to 9 inches wide and 7 feet 10 to 11 inches high. They are 4 lights wide, with 24 lights in all, 12 over 12. Each light measures 10 by 14 inches. The sills are generally 11 inches off the floor. The floors are laid with 4 to 6 inch planks. The walls and ceilings are plastered and have a small plaster cornice. The first and second floors have ceilings of about 11 feet. These vary a few inches in the several rooms. Most



b

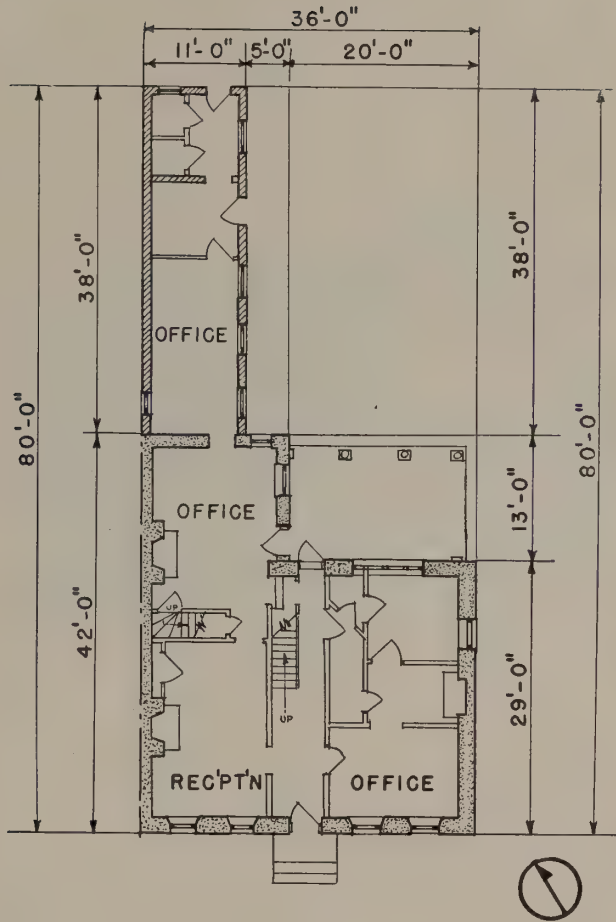
of the interior wood trim, the stairs, and the hardware are in a good state of preservation. The building generally is in need of renovation.

The property now comprises some five acres and is owned by the City. It is in the custody of the Society of Colonial Dames and is open to visitors.

Photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress: (a) copy of an old painting.

THE MEHL HOUSE

4821 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Mehl House (Federal, H. I. 8) stands on land which was in possession of the Mehl family from 1763 to 1865.

This two and a half story stone house has a full cellar. It is 36 feet wide on the street front and 29 feet deep. The stone extension on the northwest projects another 13 feet and is 16 feet wide. It is probably a later addition. The brick addition in the rear is modern. The house has a pleasant symmetrical elevation. The exterior details are a little more refined than those at 4825 Germantown Avenue (H. I. 9).

The hall is 6 feet 5 inches wide. To the left is a room 13 feet 4 inches wide and 19 feet long, with a

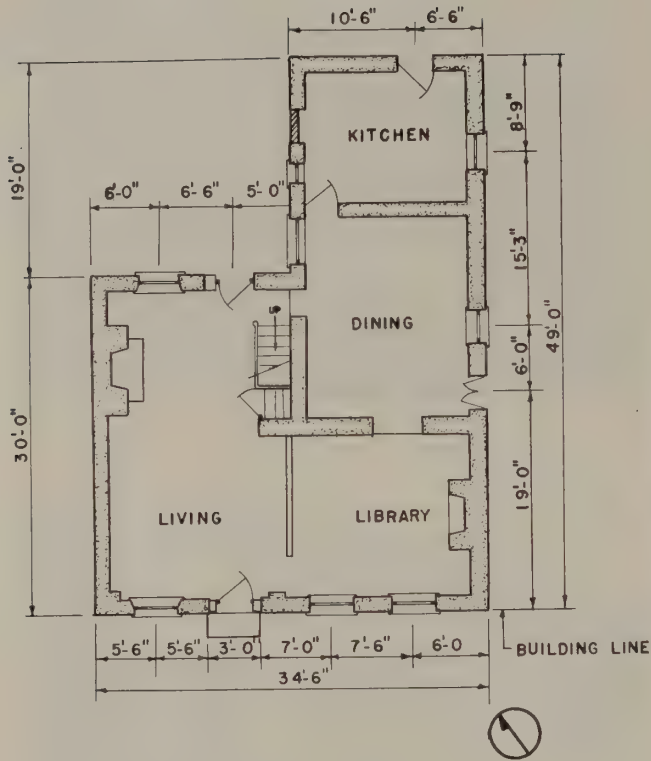
fireplace in the west gable. The space to the right of the hall has been altered to such an extent that no trace of the original plan is visible. There was a fireplace in the east wall of this room. A single door in the rear of the reception room and two steps under a winding stair leads to a room 14 feet by 19 feet. This room also has a fireplace in the west wall.

The interior work is modern with the exception of the stair rail on the center hall stairs and the flooring on the third floor.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE OTTINGER HOUSE

4825 Germantown Avenue



The Ottinger House (Colonial, H. I. 9), was acquired in 1785 by Christopher Ottinger, coachmaker. It remained in the Ottinger family until 1929.

Like many other houses in the township, this two and a half story stone and stucco house is a composite of many additions. The dining room and library appear to be part of the original house; the living room is an early addition thereto; and the kitchen is modern. The rear portion is a conglomerate of modern additions. The main part of the house is 34 feet 6 inches on the street line and 30 feet 6 inches deep. The dining room forms a further offset in the rear of about 6 feet. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The street cornice is believed to be the original one, but the rear cornice is modern. On both first and second floors the windows on the street are double-hung with 20 lights, 8 over 12.

Three marble steps lead to the street entrance. The wood trim and pediment of the entrance are probably original; the door is not. A number of the doors and

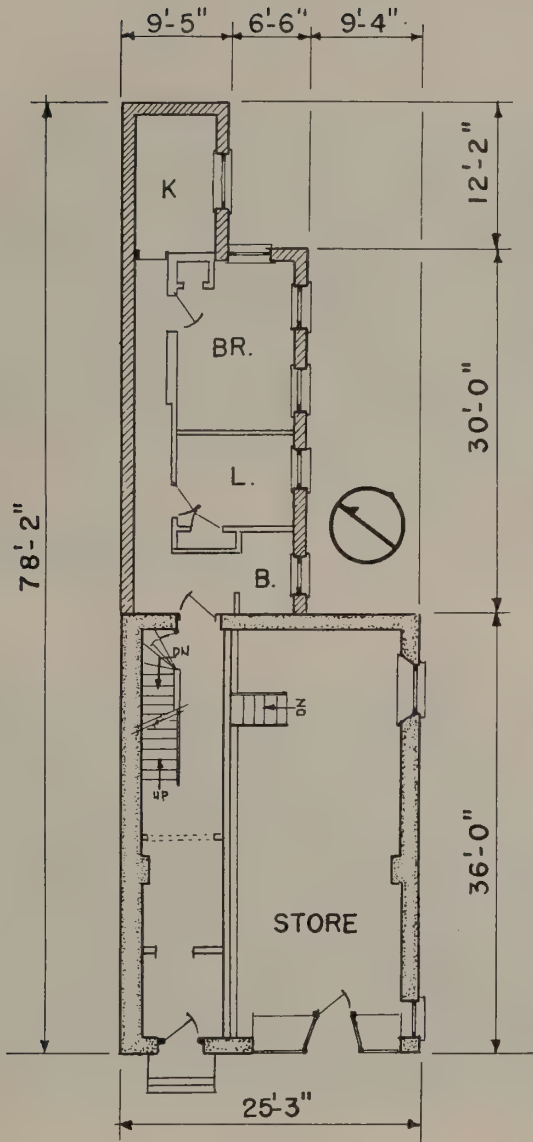
some of the trim on the two lower floors are early. The third floor has been altered and little of the original work remains. Six-inch logs frame the dining room floor. The floor framing of the library is modern. In the cellar under the library and dining room there are stone steps leading to a space under the living room. Originally, these were steps to the outside, and their position indicates that the northern side of the library was formerly the outside wall of the house. On the first and second floors, this old stone wall has been replaced by a partition.

The ceiling heights vary. The library ceiling is 7 feet 10 inches; the living room, 7 feet 6 inches; the dining room, 7 feet 8 inches. On the second floor, the bedroom over the library has an 8-foot ceiling, the bedroom over the dining room a ceiling a little over 7 feet high, while the passage and the bedroom over the living room have ceilings of 7 feet. The third floor ceiling is 6 feet 9 inches to the intersection of the roof.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE ROYAL HOUSE

5011 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Royal House (no date, H. I. 20) derives its name from the Royal family who owned it, 1812-1891. It is a two and a half story stone house with a full cellar. The walls are stuccoed. The original building was 25 feet on Germantown Avenue and extended back 36 feet. The rear addition is some 16 feet by 42 feet and is a modern building. The street cornice, the store front, and the entrance doors are also modern. The date of construction has not been documented, but the front part of the house is early, probably Federal. The front gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles, the rear with asphalt.

The interior has been changed materially to accommodate apartments on the upper floors and a store on the first floor. The archway in the first floor hall,

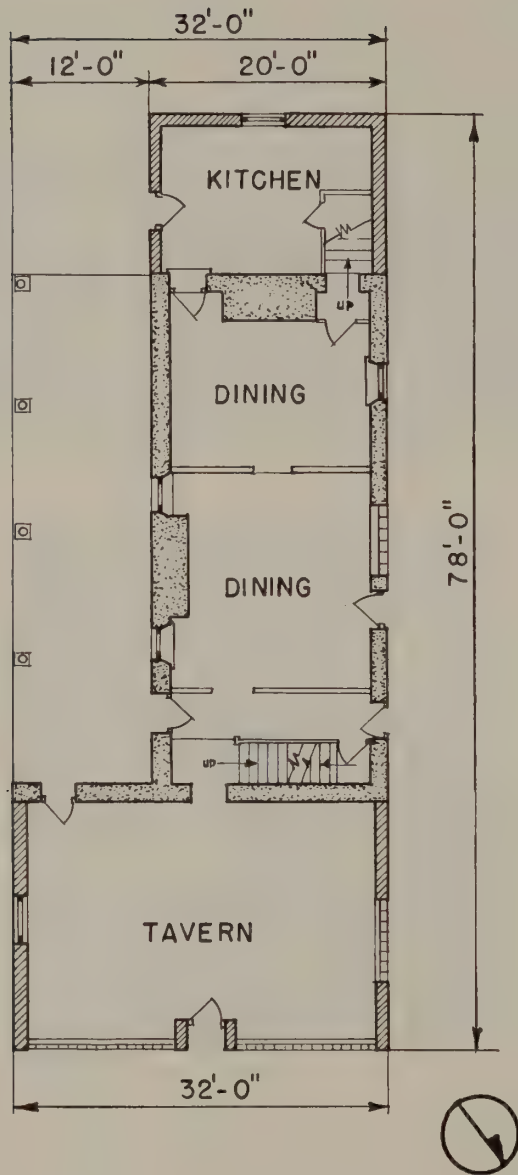
parts of the stair rail on the upper floor, and a third floor window sash appear to be part of the original building. The "summer" beam, 10 inches square, in the second floor framing running east and west, is in excellent condition. The first floor framing has been largely replaced and reinforced. There is a well 12 feet deep about 10 feet east of the old foundation wall in the cellar.

The property is irregular in shape, 26 feet by 160 feet deep. The building is generally in good repair.

Photographs: (a) sketch by John Richards made about 1870 showing on the right the Royal House and on the left the old Duys House demolished many years ago, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE GENERAL WAYNE HOTEL

5058 Germantown Avenue



The General Wayne Hotel (Federal, H. I. 22) was kept successively by John Bockius, William K. Cox, and John B. Maxwell. Like many other inns of the period, it was something of a community center. Several beneficial societies, the Germantown Blues, and the Columbia Fire Company regularly met there.

The existing building, 32 feet along Germantown Avenue and 78 feet deep, including the kitchen extension of 12 feet, is a conglomerate of alterations and additions to earlier structures. It is now three stories high and has a full cellar. The walls are of stone and brick, and, except for portions of these exterior walls

and some of the floor framing, the greater part of the house dates from about 1866. Originally the main gable was parallel to the street and was about 23 feet wide. The fireplaces and chimneys at either end of this gable have been removed. The three second floor windows on Germantown Avenue are probably unchanged in location.

The dining room, 17 feet by 18 feet, is separated from the front by a stair hall, 7 feet 4 inches wide, opening onto Manheim Street. The dining room fireplace is closed. The rear dining room is 15 feet by 17 feet. The fireplace in the south gable is closed.

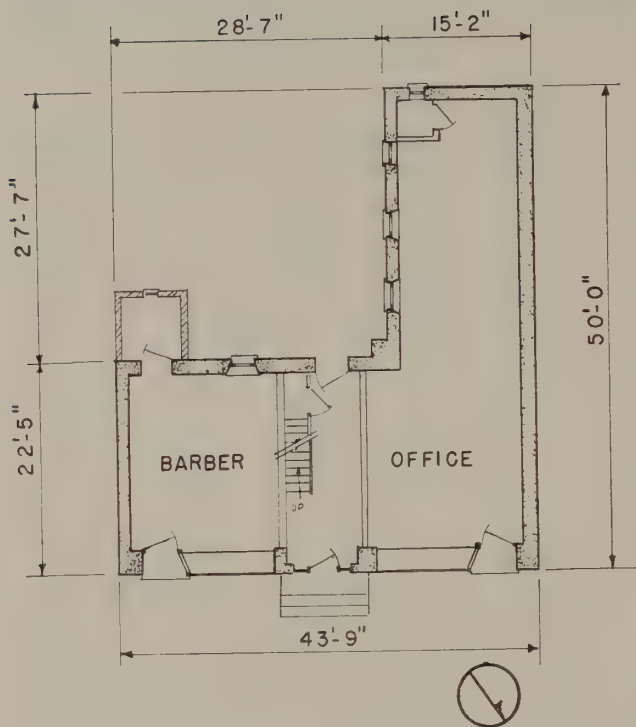


Photographs: (a) original sketch of the Inn as it was before 1866, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society;

(b) the Inn after it had been enlarged in 1866, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (c) by the Survey, 1952.

THE BARRON HOUSE

5106 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Barron House (Federal, H. I. 25) was owned by Commodore James Barron from 1839 to 1845. Barron was Commander of the *Chesapeake* when she was engaged by the *Leopard*. He was court-martialed for the conduct of his ship in this encounter. From 1824 to 1825 and from 1831 to 1837, Barron was Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The front portion of this two and a half story house is of stone, stuccoed. The house is 43 feet 9 inches wide and 22 feet 5 inches deep, with an extension on the right 15 feet 2 inches wide and 27 feet 7 inches deep. The original building is probably the small rectangular rear wing. There is a cellar under the entire house. The street front has been altered, but the fine doorway and the cornices remain. The origi-

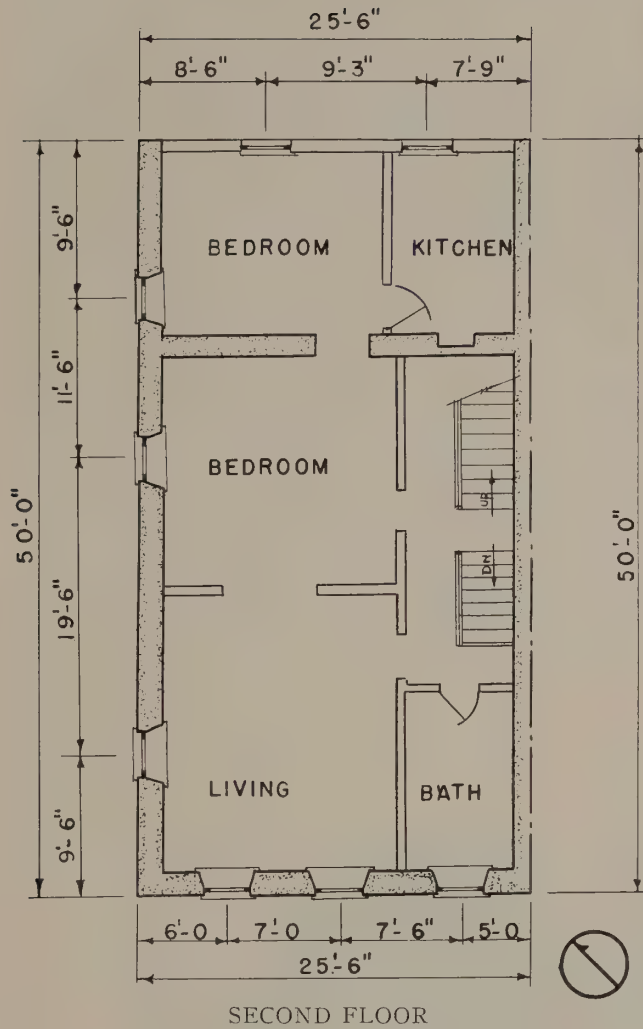
nal eight-panelled entrance door has been replaced by a modern one.

The center hall is 6 feet 10 inches wide. The rooms on either side were 15 feet by 20 feet 5 inches. There is no indication of the arrangement of the rooms in the rear wing. All the first floor partitions have been removed to provide for office space and a barber shop. The second floor has been made into an apartment. Hardly any of the interior work remains, as a result of these alterations. The flooring on the third floor of the rear wing seems original, as does the handrail on the stairs to the second floor and one interior door.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE DORFENILLE HOUSE

5139 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Dorfенille House (Federal, H. I. 28) may have been built by Godfrey Dorfенille in the 1790's.

The original building, of stone covered with stucco, is two and a half stories high and stands on the street line. It is 25 feet 6 inches wide by 38 feet deep. The remainder of the house is made up of several subsequent additions and alterations. The cellar has a transverse wall in lieu of the more usual "summer" beam, and an outside cellar way on Collum Street.

The first floor framing is reinforced by brick piers and shoring. The ridge of the gable is parallel to the street; it has a simple box cornice receiving barge boards on the gable end. The one dormer on the street is part of the early house. The roof is now covered with a composition roofing.

On the first floor a passage 3 feet wide leads to the stair hall. The remainder of the space on this floor is a store. The stair hall on the second floor is 6 feet

9 inches wide. A bathroom occupies the front end of the hall. To the left is a corner room, 15 feet 5 inches by 18 feet 6 inches, lighted by three windows; and to the rear another room, 15 feet 5 inches by 15 feet 8 inches, with one smaller window. The two rooms shown on the plan at the rear are in a twentieth-century addition. There are three rooms and closets on the third floor. The first floor has a ceiling height of 9 feet 5 inches, the second is 9 feet 7 inches and the attic, 7 feet 2 inches.

The three double-hung windows on Germantown Avenue and the two on Collum Street are in their original positions. They have plank-front frames, the sash are modern. All of these sash, except one on Collum Street, are 2 feet 8 inches wide and 6 feet high. The exception while of the same width is 5 feet 5

inches high. There is no evidence of the original arrangement of the muntins. In the third floor, parts of the original flooring remain in widths of 8, 10, and 12 inches.

The entire first floor has been so altered for store purposes that no vestige of the early building remains. The second floor partitions and the stairs are believed to be in their original positions, but some changes have been made here and in the attic. The size of the building, the story heights, and the disposition of the original plan bear a close resemblance to the house at 5213 (H. I. 34). The property is privately owned. It is weathertight and in reasonable repair.

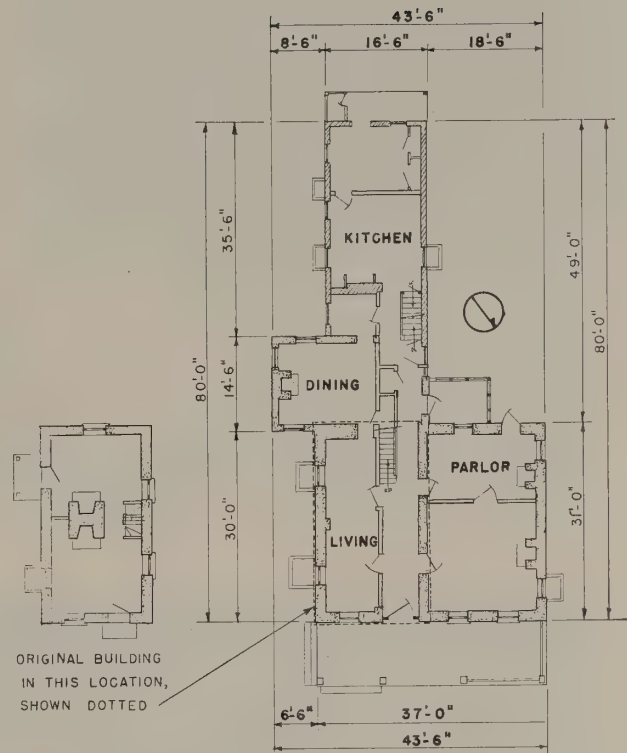
Photographs: (a) made prior to 1894, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

GILBERT STUART'S STUDIO

5140 Germantown Avenue

Gilbert Stuart's studio (Colonial, H. I. 29) was on the property now 5140 Germantown Avenue. During the summers from 1796 to 1799 Stuart painted in a small stone building at the rear of the house which was then standing on this ground. The studio was partially destroyed by fire in 1854 and was finally demolished in 1900. The main house was razed in 1943.

In May, 1942, Mr. G. Clarence Johnson measured the house. This stood about 100 feet from the street, and was 37 feet wide and 31 feet deep. The rear portion was a nineteenth-century addition. Mr. Johnson recorded the position and dimensions of an earlier building, 19 by 31 feet, which formed the eastern half of the house. This stone building was divided in the middle by a chimney. There was a fireplace in each of the two rooms and, at one side, a small winding stair. It is thought to have been two stories high, and was probably one of the earliest houses in the village.



a



b

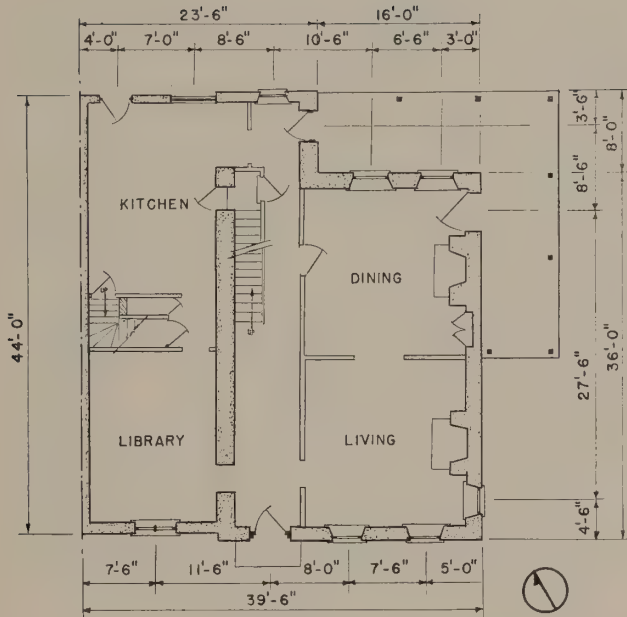
The hall, 5 feet wide, ran north and south and occupied the western part of the early building. To the east, there was a living room, 10 by 27 feet, without a fireplace. To the west, on the street side, was a square room, 16 feet on a side, with a fireplace in the west gable. In back was a parlor, 11 by 16 feet, also with a fireplace in the same wall.

The property is now occupied by a market house.

Plan drawn from a survey by G. C. Johnson, May, 1942. Photographs: (*a*) courtesy of Library of Congress; (*b*) ruins of the old barn which Gilbert Stuart used as his studio, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society.

THE RECTORY OF ST. STEPHEN'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5213 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Rectory (Federal H. I. 34) was built about the end of the eighteenth century. It was at one time the home of Henry Fraley, carpenter and drum maker, and was acquired by the Church in 1856.

The stone house, covered with stucco, is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. The early house is to the south of the stone lateral wall, and measures 26 feet on the street and has a depth of 36 feet 9 inches. The addition to the north and the porch were built in the middle of the nineteenth century. The roof is gabled, the ridge parallel to the street. The cellar has a transverse wall carrying the first floor joists instead of the more common "summer" beam. There

is an outside cellarway in the rear. At the eaves is a box cornice with bed moulds and a crown mould; the rake of the gable is covered with a moulded barge board. The old shingles are covered with a composition roofing. The single dormer is made with pilasters, entablature, pediment, and round-headed sash.

A stone platform and one step provide the approach to the entrance doorway. The door is panelled and has a plain frame and architrave under a leaded fanlight, the whole recessed in the masonry. The hall, originally at the left, now serves as a center hall between the old part of the house and the addition to the north. It is 6 feet wide, and the main stairs are at the

far end. On the right of the hall are the living and dining rooms, each 16 feet square and each with a door to the hall. A large opening connects them. Each room has a fireplace served by separate chimneys in the south wall.

The second floor plan is similar. There are bedrooms, each with a fireplace, over the living and dining rooms; a small bedroom over the west end of the hall and a bathroom in the addition at the rear. The third floor has two bedrooms on the right of the hall and a small bedroom over the hall bedroom on the second floor.

The first floor has a ceiling height of 9 feet 11 inches, the second 9 feet 4 inches, and the third floor, or attic, a height of 7 feet 6 inches. These ceilings are unusually high for a house of such modest dimensions.

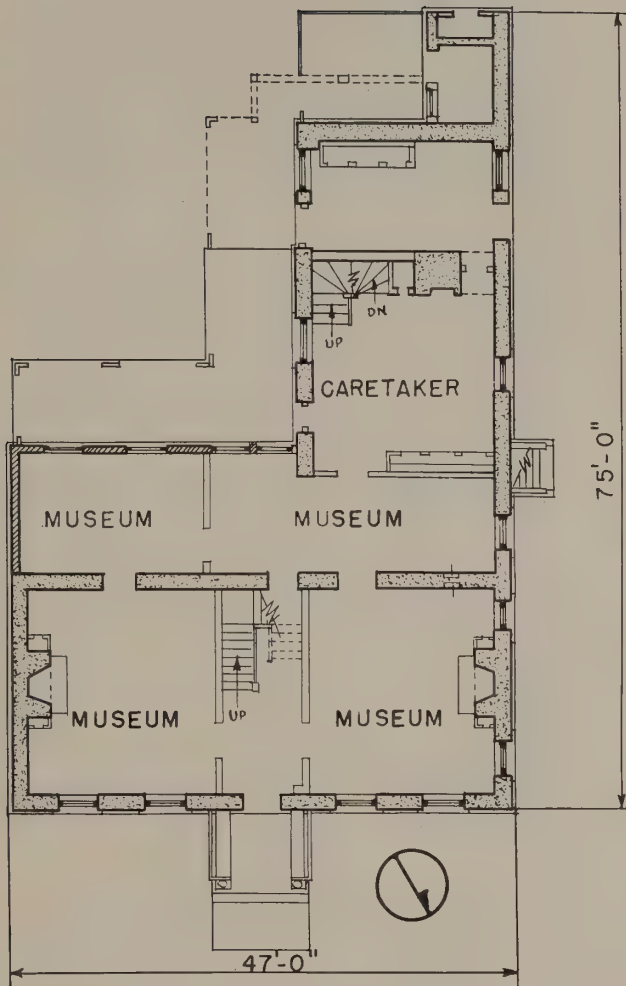
Not much is left of the original interiors. The rooms are plastered with a plain wood trim. The windows are generally double-hung in plank-front frames. The sash on the street front are about 2 feet 10 inches wide and 5 feet 6 inches high, 3 lights wide, 12 lights in all, 6 over 6. The lights are 10 inches by 15 inches. The first floor windows have three-panel, solid wood shutters. The upper windows have two-panel blinds.

The building is at the north boundary of the Church property. Buildings and grounds are maintained in excellent condition.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE

5214 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Conyngham-Hacker House (Colonial, H. I. 35) is now occupied by the Germantown Historical Society. The property was owned by Theobald Endt, 1745-1765. William Forbes purchased it in 1795, and in 1844 Isaiah Hacker bought it. Later the house was used as a boarding school. In 1927 Isaiah Hacker Howell and Mrs. Susan Hacker Bodine presented it to the Germantown Historical Society.

The house, set some 30 feet back from the street, is two and a half stories high and has a cellar. The original building comprises the front portion, 47 feet long and 22 feet deep, and a part of the rear wing, 21 feet wide and 30 feet long. The porches and the other parts of the rear buildings are additions of various eras. The walls are of good rubble masonry. The stone of the street wall is dressed to some extent and

laid with greater care than that in the other walls. The building has a single gable parallel to the street. The roof is tin. The eaves cornice is a box with bed moulds and crown members. The dormers are modern.

The ground between the house and the sidewalk is three or four feet higher than the walk and is held in place by a rubble masonry wall. This arrangement was not uncommon in eighteenth-century Germantown, although the retaining walls were usually at the curb line. The Conyngham-Hacker house is one of the last remaining examples of this pleasant plan. Stone steps and a flag walk lead to the entrance porch which is a few steps above the ground.

On either side of the porch are wooden benches, framed by two Doric columns supporting a slightly

arched opening with a gable over it. The entrance door opens on a central hall, 7 feet 6 inches wide. On both sides are rooms 17 feet 6 inches long and 19 feet deep. Each has a fireplace and wood mantel in the gable end, opposite the door of the room. The adjoining rooms to the south and the porch are comparatively recent additions. There are two rooms on the second floor of the same size as the rooms below; each has a fireplace. A bathroom has been added in the northern end of the stair hall.

The greater part of the interior woodwork, including the stairs and floors, is original and well preserved. Much of the detail has exceptional interest. The windows are double-hung, set in plank-front frames. Those on the first floor on the street front have sash about 3 feet 4 inches wide and 5 feet 6 inches high. They are 4 lights wide, 24 lights in all, 12 over 12.

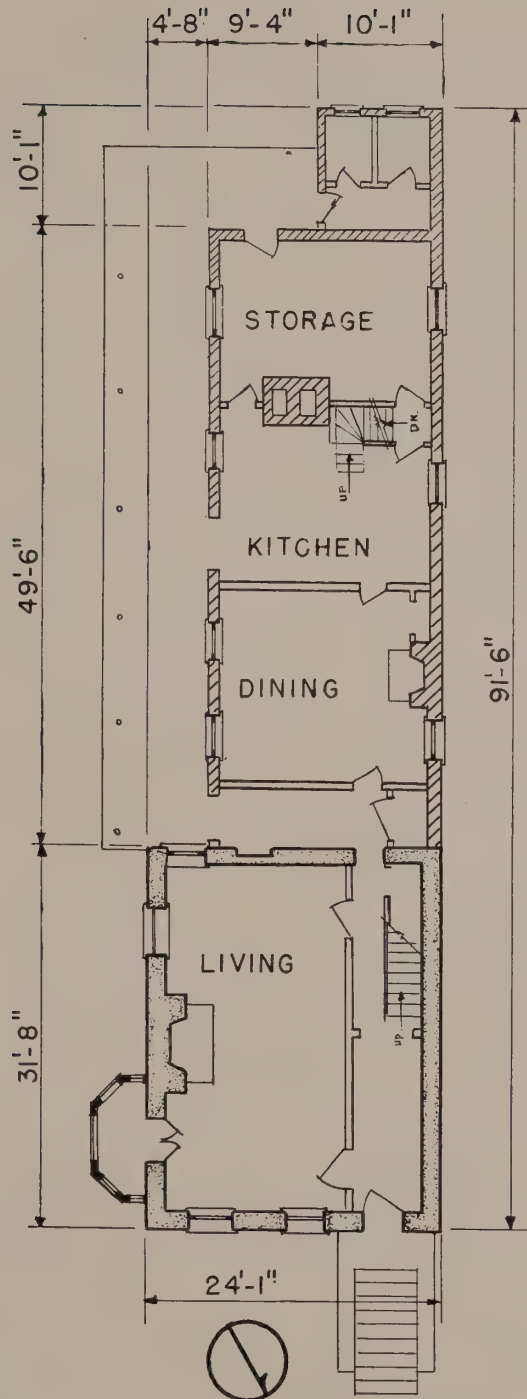
Those on the same front on the second floor are the same width, 4 lights wide, 20 lights in all, 8 over 12. The ceiling of the first floor is 9 feet 9 inches high; the second is 8 feet 9 inches; and in the attic it is 6 feet 9 inches to the roof intersection.

The property is 69 feet wide and 240 feet deep. Adjoining it to the south is the Baynton house (H. I. 32), and beyond that the site of Gilbert Stuart's studio (H. I. 29). The building is maintained in excellent condition by the Germantown Historical Society. The museum and the library are open to visitors. The rear wing is now occupied by the caretaker.

Photographs: (a) sketch made by John Richards in the 1870's showing on the left the Conyngham-Hacker House and on the right the Howell House, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE HOWELL HOUSE

5218 Germantown Avenue



The Howell House (Colonial, H. I. 36) was owned in 1795 by William Forbes. Later it was acquired by the Hacker family.

The Howell house is a good example of Germantown's Colonial architecture. The house is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. The exterior walls are of stone, pointed. The original building, 24 feet by 32 feet, is to the front. The rear wing of brick and the bay window are mid-nineteenth century additions. The cornice, the dormer, and entrance doorway are noteworthy.

The plan of this house is unusual as there is no evidence that the first floor at any time had more than one room. The dimensions of this room are 14 feet 9 inches by 28 feet 8 inches. It has a fireplace on the center of the east wall, but this is not a kitchen fireplace. It is possible that an early one-story wing to the rear was demolished to make way for the present brick addition. The 6-foot entrance and stair hall on the west side of the house has a door in the rear wall which may have provided the connection between the front of the house and the old wing. There are three rooms on the second floor, one at the end of the hall and two over the living room. Each of these is about 14 feet square. The third floor contains one room and a storage space over the hall. The first floor ceilings are 9 feet 2 inches high, those on the second



floor, 8 feet 6 inches, and on the third floor, 6 feet 9 inches.

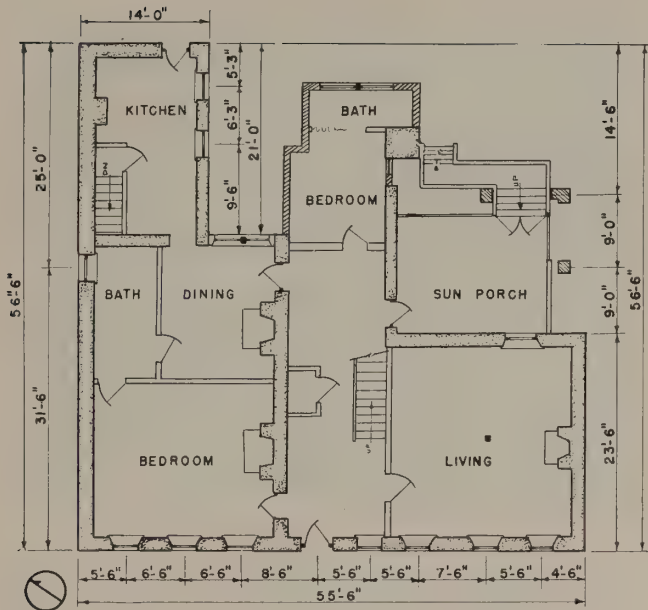
The windows are double-hung, with plank-front frames. The two sash on the first floor front are 3 feet by 6 feet. The muntins are modern. The three sash on the second floor are 3 feet by 5 feet 1 inch. They are 4 lights wide, 24 lights in all, 12 over 12. The dormer sash is 3 feet wide. It is 3 lights wide and 5 high and has an arched head.

The partitions on the second and third floors have been rearranged to make apartments. Little of the interior woodwork remains. The panelled doors on the second floor seem to be original, as do the arch of the entrance door and the handrail on the stairs from the first to the second floors.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE BRINGHURST HOUSE

5219 Germantown Avenue



The Bringhurst House (Colonial, H. I. 37) is part of the property owned in the last quarter of the eighteenth century by John Bringhurst, a carriage maker and the builder of the famous Germantown wagons. Later it was the home of Christopher John Jungkurth, a wagon and omnibus manufacturer, who built ambulances for the Northern Armies during the Civil War.

The building is two and a half stories high with a full cellar. It is composed of two houses and a connecting addition. The part north of the entrance hall is an early house and stands in its original location, some 25 feet back from the street line. The part to the south is believed to be of about the same date but originally it stood on the street line. About 1896 Charles P. Keith had this part moved back so that it was in alignment with the northern section and joined the two houses. Both buildings and the addition on the front are constructed of stone and are at the present time covered with stucco. The northern building is about 24 feet wide and 56 feet 6 inches deep, including the rear wing; the other house is 23 feet wide and 23 feet 6 inches deep. The total street front measures 55 feet 6 inches.

The gables of both houses parallel the street. The dormers in the attic are late nineteenth century. The cornices are of wood, boxed with plain moulded members. The cornice of the south house is some feet lower than the one to the north. The roof is made of

asphalt shingles. The rear of the building is a conglomerate of modern additions in brick and wood.

The building is now divided into apartments; the partition arrangements, the flooring, and the interior plastering are modern. The first floor framing is in bad condition. Some of the timbers are old; the floor is shored and braced with wood framing and Lally columns.

There are two fireplaces on each floor in the south wall of the north house, one on each floor is sealed, and there is a chimney in the kitchen that may have accommodated a fireplace. There are also two fireplaces in the south wall of the other house, one on each floor. The first floor ceiling height in the north house is about 10 feet, and in the south house and hall about 8 feet 1 or 2 inches. The second floor ceilings to the north are 9 feet 3 inches, to the south they are 7 feet 8 to 10 inches.

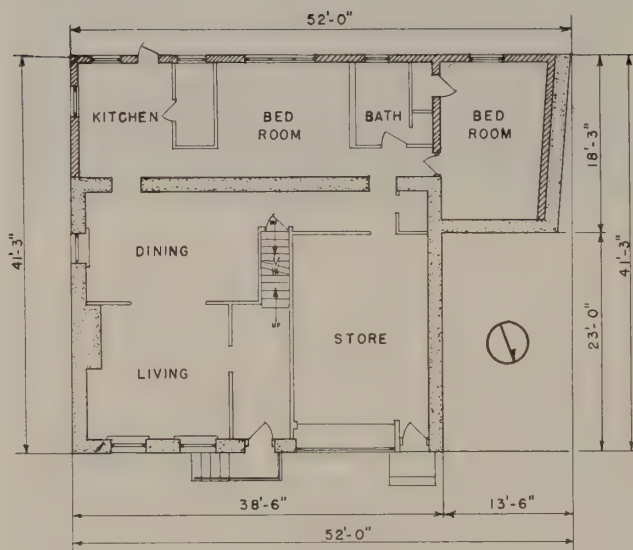
It is possible that the first floor window frames are original; the sash are modern. These frames would permit sash about 2 feet 6 inches wide and 4 feet 11 inches high. The second floor front frames and those in the other walls are of various sizes and shapes; most, if not all, are thought to be modern.

The property extends back from the street about 290 feet. It is privately owned and maintained as an apartment house. It is weathertight and in reasonable repair.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE THEOBALD ENDT HOUSE

5222-5224 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Theobald Endt House (Colonial, H. I. 38), at 5222 and 5224 Germantown Avenue, was the scene of the first of the famous Unity conferences. These conferences were designed to promote an alliance of the various German Protestant churches and sects. Seven were held, four of them in Germantown. Instead of achieving harmony, however, they brought disorder and an even greater schism.

The house, three stories high, is of stone and has a full cellar. It is 38 feet 6 inches wide and 30 feet 7 inches deep. The brick additions to the south are modern. Successive alterations have marred the front ele-

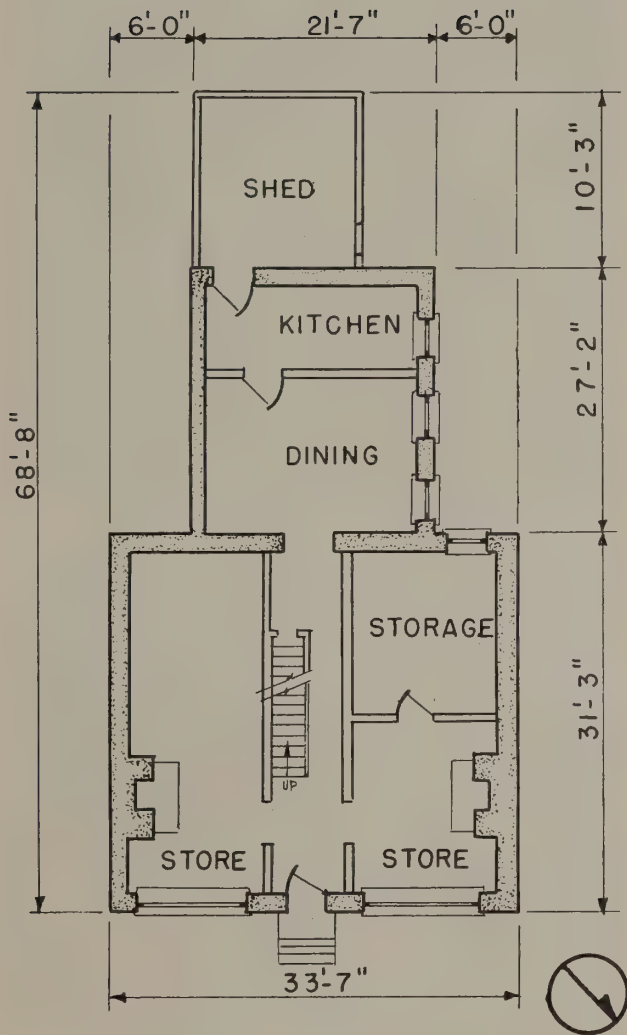
vation, but the rest of the exterior is in a fair state of preservation.

Apparently the plan originally provided a center hall with rooms on either side. There was one fireplace in the east wall. However, almost all of the original partitions have been removed to accommodate the store on the first floor and apartments on the second. None of the original woodwork or ironwork remains.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's of Germantown Avenue, west side, looking towards Queen Lane, showing the Theobald Endt House and the John Bechtel House; courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE BECHTEL HOUSE

5226 Germantown Avenue



The Bechtel House (Colonial, H. I. 40) stands on land owned by John Bechtel from 1729 to 1759. Bechtel was pastor of the Reformed Church in Market Square from 1733 to 1744. In 1746 the Moravians opened a school for girls in his house.

The house is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. The street front is of dressed stone. The front portion, 33 feet 7 inches wide and 31 feet 3 inches deep, is the original part of the house. There is a date stone inscribed "HBAB 1742" near the front door. The kitchen and dining room wing and the wood shed are modern.

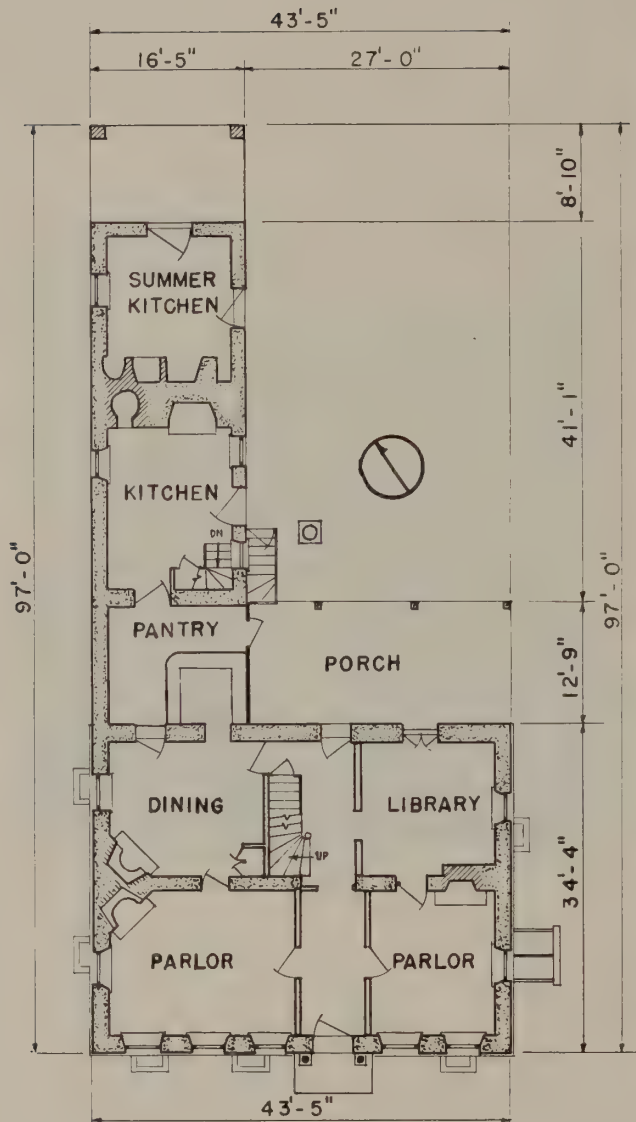
The house has the usual center stair hall. Originally there were two rooms on either side of it, each about 12 feet wide and 14 feet deep. There is a fireplace in each of the front rooms but none in the back rooms. The two rooms on the left of the hall have now been made into one large room which extends the depth of the house.

Most of the flooring, and trim, the bolts, locks, and hinges throughout the house seem to be original. The cornice in the rear of the front part of the house is also probably original.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

GRUMBLETHORPE

5267 Germantown Avenue



a



b

Grumblethorpe, the Wister house (Colonial, H. I. 43), was built by John Wister, Philadelphia merchant, in 1744. It was intended as a summer home, but in time it became his usual residence. Grumblethorpe is one of the most important of the Germantown houses not only because of the eminence of the Wister family, but also because it represents the final stage in the development of the domestic architecture indigenous to Germantown.

The original building consisted of the main house, two and a half stories high, on the street and of a one and a half story wing to the rear connected with the main house by a one story passage about 12 feet long.

The main house measures 43 feet 5 inches on the street and is 34 feet 4 inches deep. The rear wing at present is 17 feet wide and 63 feet deep. This rear wing was enlarged and extended to its present form in five major alterations. In 1808 the main house was also substantially changed by the removal of the balcony at the second floor on the south (street) elevation; the removal of the pent eaves on the south and east elevations; the closing of the door to the west parlor and the substitution of a Federal doorway for the original door. No major changes have been made since 1819.

A central hall, 6 feet 2 inches wide, leads to the main stair on the north side of the house. The east parlor,



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13 feet by 16 feet, is on the right of the entrance. The west parlor, on the left, is 16 by 19 feet. Originally this room could be entered also from the street. The dining room, 14 feet by 16 feet, is to the north of the west parlor. There is a door between these rooms. The dining room is served by a pantry, kitchen, and summer kitchen, all in the rear wing. To the north of the east parlor, and accessible from both the parlor and the hall, is the library. The corner fireplaces in the west parlor and the dining room use the same chimney. The fireplaces for the east parlor and the library are located in the partition wall between them. These two chimneys also provide fireplaces for the four corner bedrooms on the second floor. Each of the bedrooms is immediately over one of the first floor rooms. Two more bedrooms in the rear wing are reached by a small stair north of the pantry. There are five bedrooms on the third floor, together with storage rooms and lofts. A workroom, some 11 feet by 26 feet, was built over the summer kitchen about 1819.

The first floor has a 10-foot ceiling; the second, 9 feet 6 inches; and the third is 7 feet 6 inches to the roof intersection. The kitchen has a 7-foot 9-inch ceiling. The rooms over it are 8 feet high. There is an unusually deep cellar with 8 feet of head-room under the main house. The root cellar under the library has a stone arched ceiling.

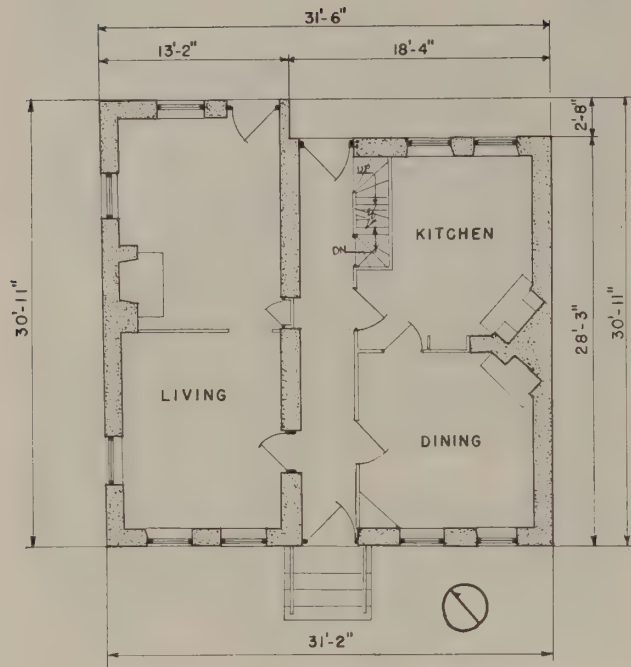
The interiors are plastered with simple wood details. The bedroom fireplaces are panelled in wood to the ceiling. The floors of the first and second floors are white pine in random widths.

Within recent years, Mr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A., has meticulously restored some of the rooms. The house is maintained as a museum by the Landmark Society.

Photographs: (a) model made by Charles Wister of the house as it was in 1744, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) taken in the 1850's showing the tenant house to the left, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (c, d) by the Survey, 1952; (e) rear of the house, courtesy of Library of Congress.

GRUMBLETHORPE TENANT HOUSE

5269 Germantown Avenue



The Grumblethorpe Tenant House (Colonial, H. I. 44) was, as its name implies, a dependency of the Wister property. It is owned by the Landmark Society.

The building is of good, pointed local stone, two and a half stories high, with a cellar under most of the house. The roof is of wood shingles. An old house and an addition combine to form the present building, which is 31 feet wide and 31 feet deep. The original house is to the east and is 19 feet wide and 28 feet deep.

The old kitchen is in the rear part of the cellar. It has a brick floor and a fireplace 6 feet wide with an elliptical baking oven. The ceiling is 6 feet 5 inches high. The entire first floor of the addition is now a living room. Two doors connect it with the central hall on the south. The dining room, 12 feet by 12 feet 6 inches, occupies the southeast corner of the addi-

tion, and the present kitchen is in the northeast corner, partly separated from the hall by a winding stair, 2 feet 4 inches wide. These two rooms have corner fireplaces which share the same chimney. The first floor ceiling is 8 feet 2 inches high.

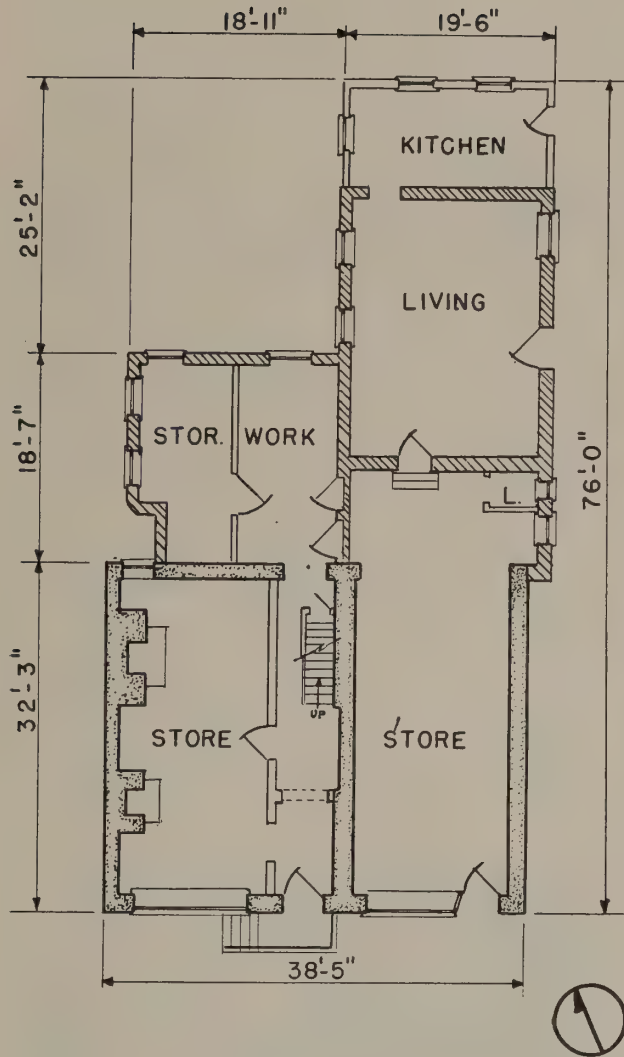
There are three bedrooms on the second floor. The arrangement of space corresponds to that of the first floor, and each of the bedrooms is immediately over one of the rooms below. The second floor ceilings are 8 feet high. The attic is lighted by small windows in the gables. There are no dormers.

The walls and ceilings of the first and second floors are plastered, and a large part of the original wood trim is intact. There is also some interesting hardware.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE BANK OF GERMANTOWN

5275-5277 Germantown Avenue



The Bank of Germantown (Federal, H. I. 45) was for many years at 5275-77 Germantown Avenue. The Bank occupied this property from 1825 until 1869, when it returned to its original place of business at 5504 Germantown Avenue. The house was also the home of John Fanning Watson, author of the *Annals of Philadelphia* and cashier of the Bank of Germantown from its founding in 1814 until 1847.

The house, a combination of two buildings, is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. The walls are of stone, stuccoed. The original building was within the rectangular front portion which measures 38 feet in

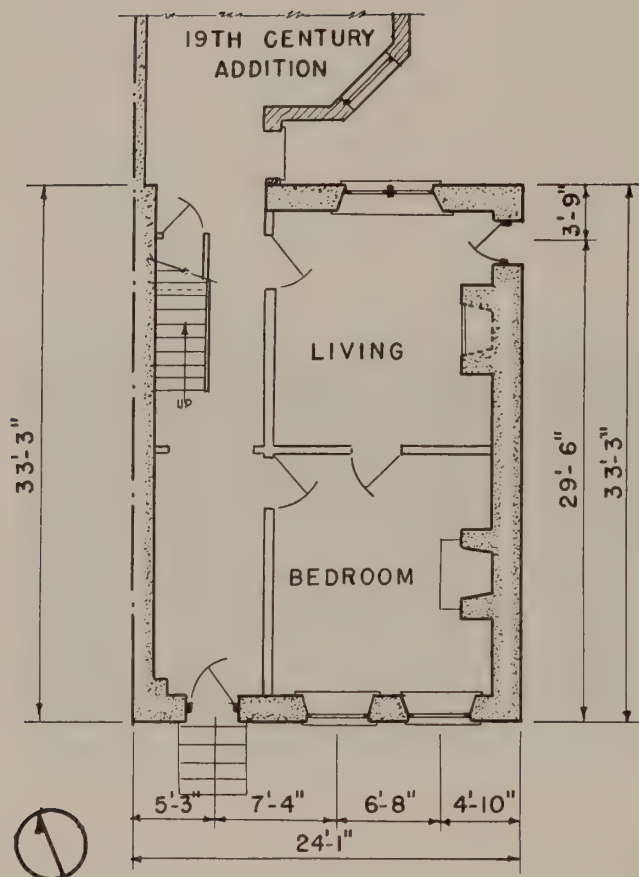
width and is 32 feet deep. The brick additions in the rear and the wood shed are recent.

The left side of the house is intact, except for the removal of a partition in the front room. The right side has been altered to accommodate a beauty parlor on the first floor and apartments upstairs. Most of the flooring, the bolts, locks, and hinges are original in the older part of the house. The stair railing on the left side and the arch in the entrance hall are particularly interesting.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE FOLWELL HOUSE

5281 Germantown Avenue



The Folwell House (Federal, H. I. 46) was owned by William Folwell, merchant, from 1806 to 1811.

The house is two and a half stories high and has a cellar. The original building is of stone covered with stucco and is on the street front. This part of the house is 24 feet 1 inch wide and 33 feet 3 inches deep. The brick additions in the rear were built in the middle of the nineteenth century. The ridge of the gable roof parallels the street and coincides with that of the house to the west. It is covered in part with copper. There is a box cornice at the eaves. The dormers are probably original.

A stone wall in the cellar under the partition forming the east wall of the hall replaces the usual beam. This represents a deviation from the earlier methods of floor framing. Such construction is rare except in the more pretentious houses. The hand-hewn joists, 3 by 8 inches, are in good condition except in the southwest part of the cellar. An oven, measuring 6 by 6 by 4 feet high, occupies the part of the cellar under the hall.

A flight of five stone steps leads to the entrance doorway, a few feet from the west wall. It is of wood with pilasters, an entablature and a pedimented gable. Apparently this is the original doorway, although the door has been altered. The hall is 6 feet 8 inches wide, with the stairs at the far end. On the right are two rooms, both 14 feet wide. The front one is 14 feet 8 inches long; the rear room 15 feet long. Each has a fireplace in the west wall. The second floor plan is similar, except that a bathroom has been added in the south end of the hall. The plan of the third floor is substantially the same as the second.

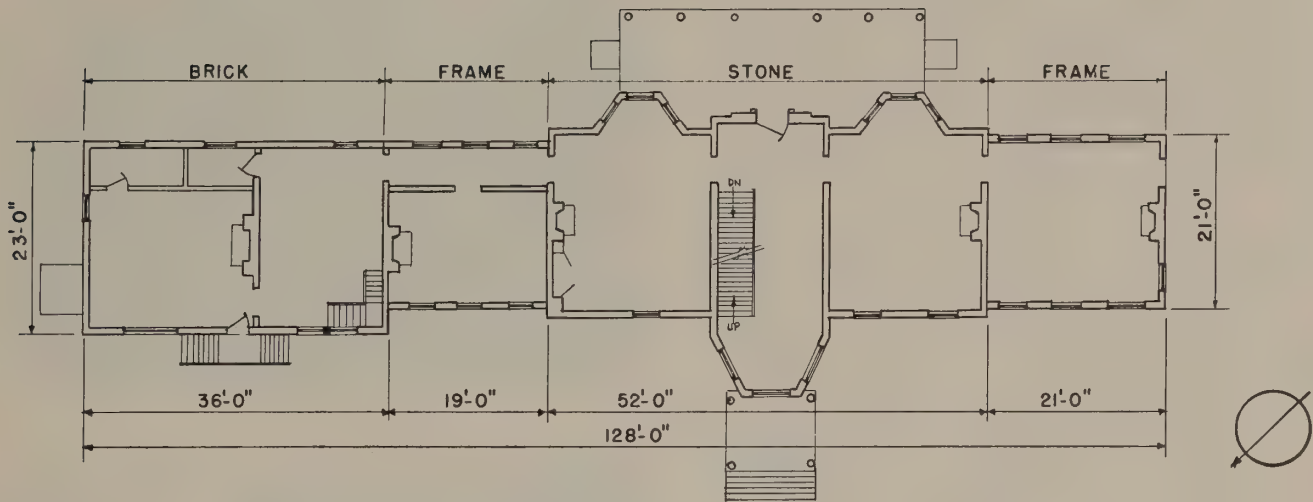
The first and second floors have a ceiling height of 9 feet 5 to 6 inches. The third floor is 7 feet 5 inches.

The building is privately owned and maintained as an apartment house. The interiors have been substantially altered and very little of the original wood detail remains, except for the fireplace mantels.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

CARLTON

Midvale Avenue and Stokley Street



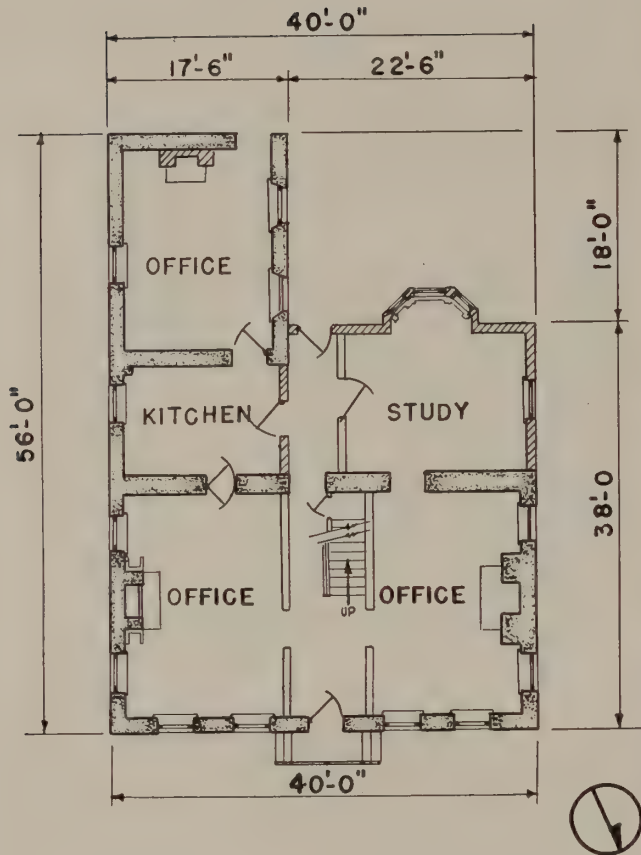
Carlton (Federal, H. I. 49) was at the east corner of Midvale Avenue and Stokley Street. It was built by Henry Hill about 1780 to replace the old farmhouse which had served both Washington and Knyphausen as headquarters. Later owners of the property were Thomas Lee, John C. Craig, and Cornelius Smith. The building was demolished in 1951.

The drawing reproduced here is from a survey made by G. Clarence Johnson in 1948. The older building is believed to have occupied the southwestern end of the central part of Hill's house. It was 52 feet long and about 23 feet wide. The extreme western end of the building and all of the northeastern extension were built in the nineteenth century.

Plan drawn from a survey by G. C. Johnson, January 1948. Photograph taken about 1930, courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH HOUSE

5300 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Trinity Lutheran Church House (Colonial, H. I. 51) stands on ground once the property of Christopher Sower, II. In 1809 the house was owned by Joseph Bullock and it was subsequently remodeled by his son, Dr. Bullock. It is now part of the property of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

The building in its present state is the result of four building operations. The earliest part, dating from the first quarter of the eighteenth century, is the end of the southern wing and measures 17 by 22 feet. This part has no cellar and originally was probably only one and a half stories high. The two and a half story house on the street was built next. This has a frontage of 40 feet and a depth of about 25 feet and has a cellar. Later, these two buildings were joined and the rear gable brought forward to meet the main house. The main gable parallels the street; the gable of the early

building did not. In this it conformed to the pattern of many of the first houses. The cornice at the eaves is a plain box with bed and crown moulds. The rake of the gable roof carries a simple barge board. The two dormers have segmental heads and low pediments. Portions of the south cornice of the front house may be seen in the attic of the rear building. The brick addition on the southwest, with a bay window, was added in the latter part of the nineteenth century. With the exception of this last addition and a one story frame shed, the walls are all of rubble masonry, covered with stucco.

On each side of the entrance way are three steps, normal to the house and leading to the platform in front of the doorway. This is framed with pilasters and a broken entablature. The door has been altered. The center hall is 6 feet 10 inches wide, with the stairs

at the end. A single door opens into the front room on the right. This room is 14 feet 1 inch by 20 feet 9 inches and has a fireplace in the west gable wall. The windows on either side are believed to be early ones. The front room on the left, 15 feet 1 inch by 20 feet 9 inches, is reached also by a single door from the hall. This room has a fireplace in the east gable wall. The kitchen to the south is 10 by 14 feet; and the room beyond, the earliest element of the plan, is 14 feet 1 inch by 19 feet 1 inch. The fireplace in the south gable has been altered but measures overall 9 feet 4 inches. All of the first floor rooms are used for church purposes.

The stairs, parts of which are early work, lead to a hall similar to the first floor hall. The partitions are generally over those below, but some changes have been made to form an apartment on this floor. The third floor has one room on each side of the hall. The first floor ceiling of the front portion is 8 feet 3 inches, of

the rear part, 7 feet 9 inches. On the second floor it is 7 feet 9 inches in the front and from 6 feet 9 inches to 7 feet in the rear. The attic ceiling is 6 feet 6 inches. The windows are generally double-hung, with plank-front frames. The shutters and blinds have unfortunately been removed. The first floor sash on the street side are 2 feet 4 inches by 5 feet to 5 feet 3 inches. On the second floor they are the same width and about 12 inches shorter.

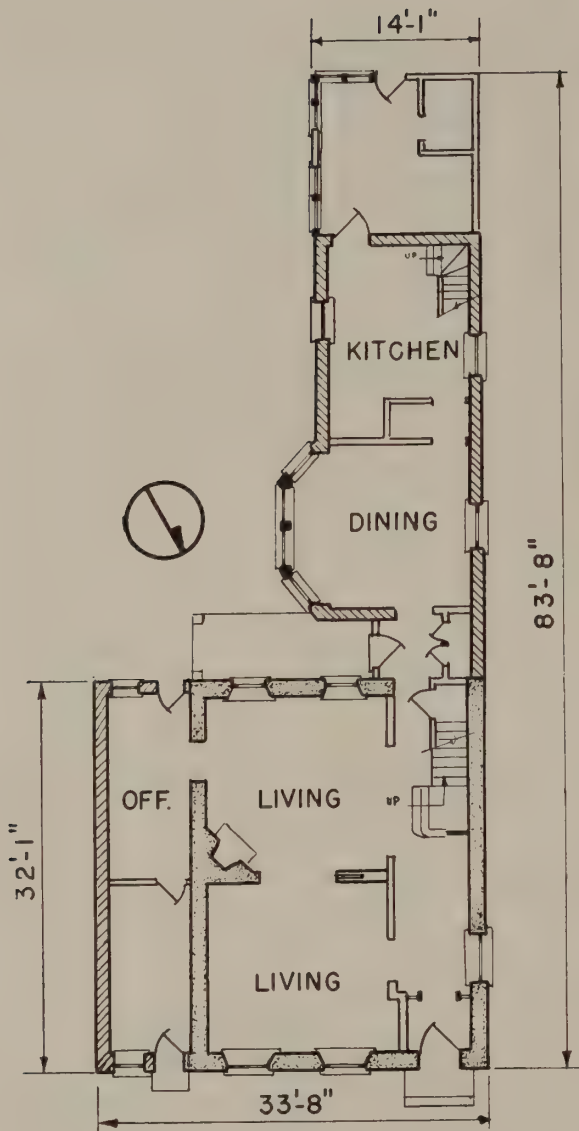
A good deal of the early flooring has been preserved, together with some panelling, window and door trim, and some wrought iron hardware.

The building is on the grounds of the Church and is owned by the Trustees of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The house can be seen by visitors.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE ASHMEAD HOUSE

5430 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Ashmead House (Federal, H. I. 57), at 5430 Germantown Avenue, was acquired, along with the property at 5434 Germantown Avenue, by John Ashmead in 1796. John Jarrett, Henry and Samuel Pastorius, Christopher Meng, and George Righter were among the previous owners of the land. The house continued in the Ashmead family until 1902, when Elliston Perot Morris bought it.

This is a two and a half story stone house with a full cellar. The street front of dressed stone measures 25 feet and 20 inches by 32 feet. The rest of the house consists of nineteenth-century additions. The present

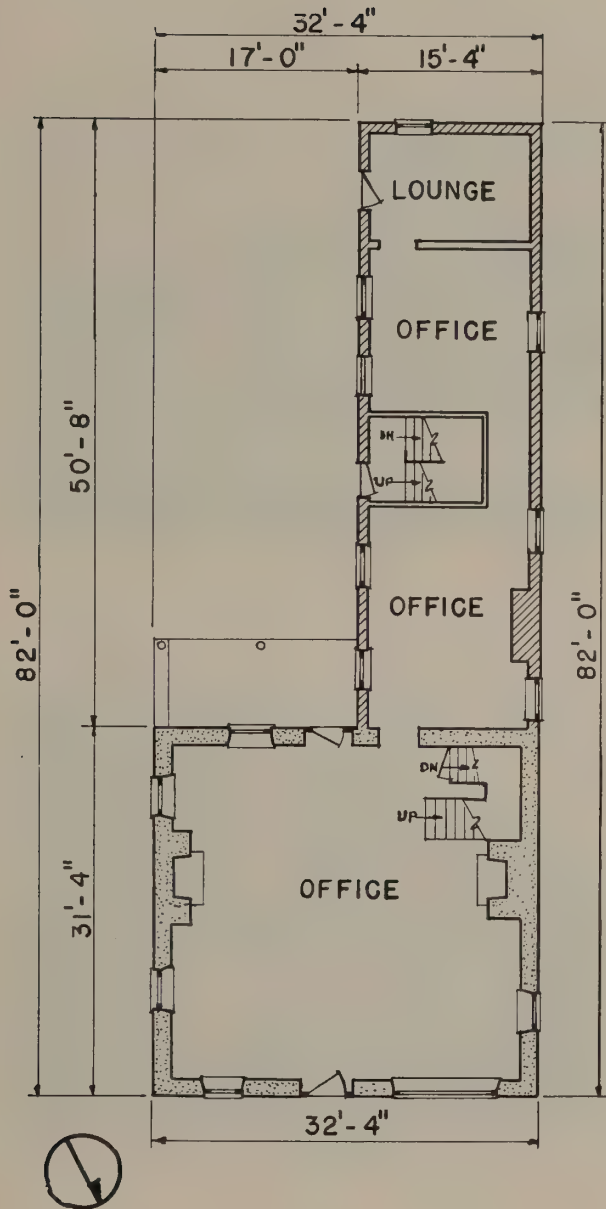
entrance way is modern; the front dormer is a late addition; and the windows have been changed several times.

After Mr. Morris purchased the house, he remodeled it completely and very little is left of the original interiors. The vestibule is 5 feet 4 inches wide; the stair hall, 6 feet 4 inches. The front living room is 14 feet 6 inches by 16 feet. The rear living room is similar in size. It has a corner fireplace.

Photographs: (a) taken in 1875, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE ASHMEAD HOUSE

5434 Germantown Avenue



This Ashmead House (Colonial, H. I. 58), at 5434 Germantown Avenue, was also purchased by John Ashmead in 1796. It was subsequently owned by Elliston Perot Morris and continued in the Morris family until 1948, when it was acquired by the Northern Liberties Federal Savings and Loan Association.

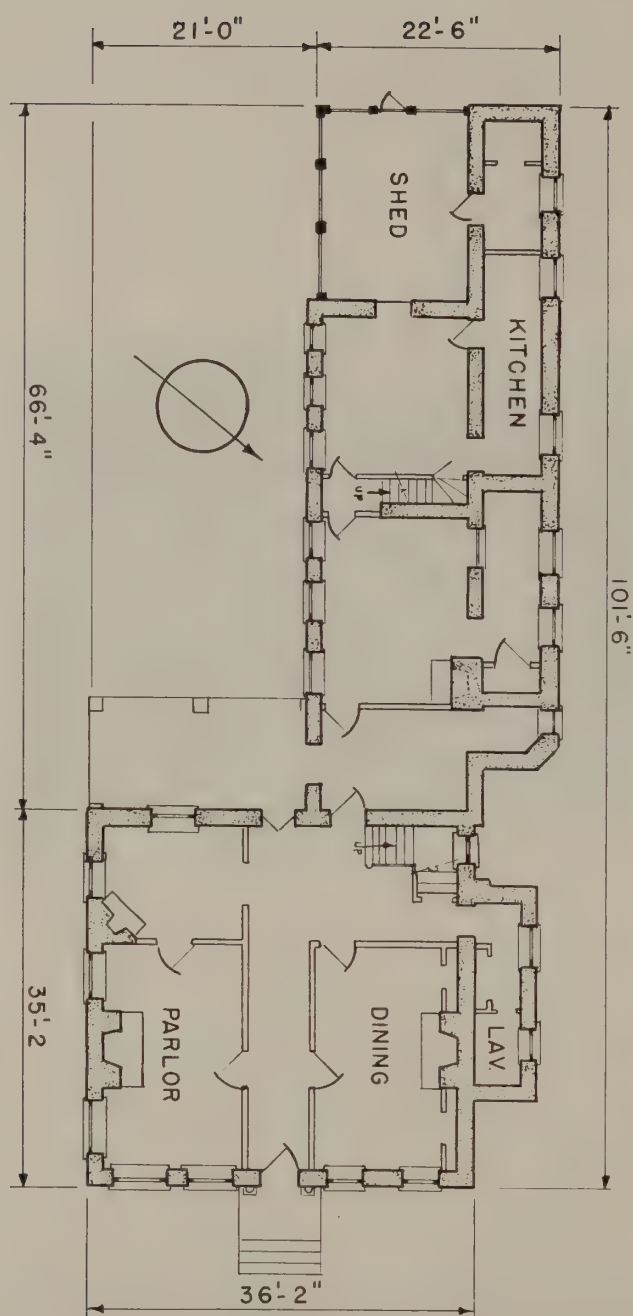
The house is two stories high and has an attic and a full cellar. The front building, of stone, measures 32

feet 4 inches wide and is 31 feet 4 inches deep. This is thought to be the original part. The brick wing to the rear is modern. The exterior of the building was partially restored and the interior adapted to banking purposes in 1949 by G. Clarence Johnson, Architect. Hardly anything remains of the original interior work.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE PEROT-MORRIS-DESHLER HOUSE

5442 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Perot-Morris-Deshler House (Colonial, H. I. 59) was built shortly before the Revolution by David Deshler, a West Indian merchant. After the Battle of Germantown, the house was used by General Howe as his headquarters. During the ownership of Colonel Isaac Franks, Washington rented it on two occasions:

once, during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, and again in the summer of 1794. Elliston and John Perot purchased the property in 1804; Samuel B. Morris acquired it in 1834 and the house remained in that family until 1948. It is now owned by the United States Government and maintained by the National Park Service.

This is a two and a half story stone house with a full cellar. The front of the house is 36 feet 2 inches wide and 35 feet 2 inches deep. The rear wing is 22 feet 6 inches wide and has a total depth of about 65 feet.

The plan of the house does not conform to any of the types usual in the Germantown houses of the period. The entrance hall is in the center and continues to an outside door in the rear wall. The stair hall, in the northwest corner, is to the right of the entrance hall. The room on the right measures 13 feet by about 21 feet. The fireplace, in the center of the gable wall, has closets on either side which occupy the entire wall. To the left of the hall is another drawing room of a similar size. Here the fireplace is flanked by two windows. Back of this room is a parlor, 11 feet by 13 feet, with a corner fireplace. A single

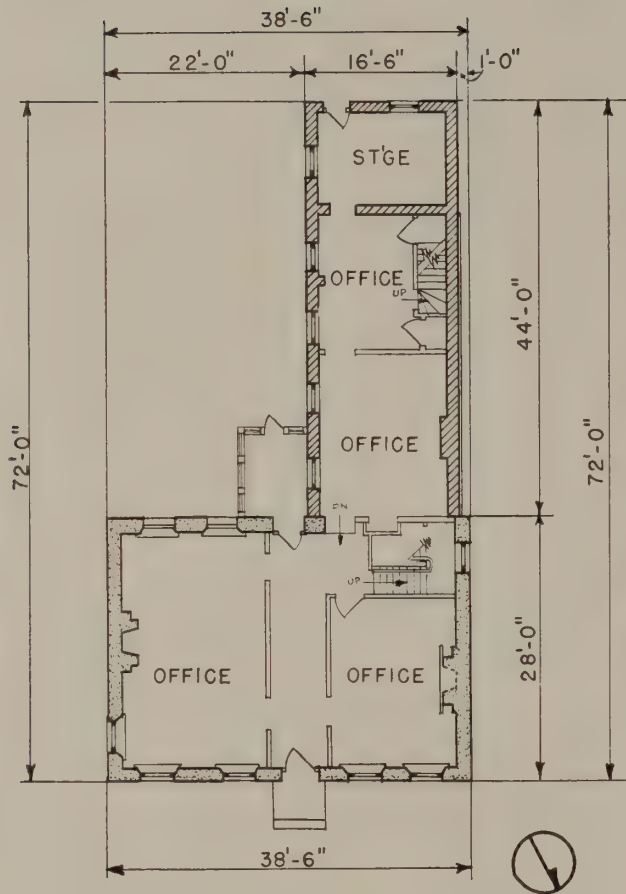
door communicates with the stair hall. Another single door to the left of the first step of the stairs provides access to the first room of the rear wing. This room is 8 feet by 13 feet. Beyond it is a room 13 by 19 feet, then a boxed-in stair and a service room, about 13 by 16 feet. Both of these latter rooms have an extension to the west about 5 feet wide.

Most of the interior woodwork, including the trim, the floors, and the mantelpieces are original. Most of the ironwork is also original. Since its acquisition by the Federal Government, parts of the interior have been carefully restored by the Park Service. The house is now a museum.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by Horace Lippincott, 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE BRINGHURST HOUSE

5448 Germantown Avenue



The Old Bringhurst House (Colonial, H. I. 60) was owned by George Bringhurst in the 1790's. James Ashmead purchased the house in 1844. The Bringhursts, like the Ashmeads, were noted coach and carriage makers.

The original part of this two and a half story stone house is the front portion which measures 38 feet 6 inches by 28 feet. The rear wing, of brick, is a mid-nineteenth-century addition. The gables were removed

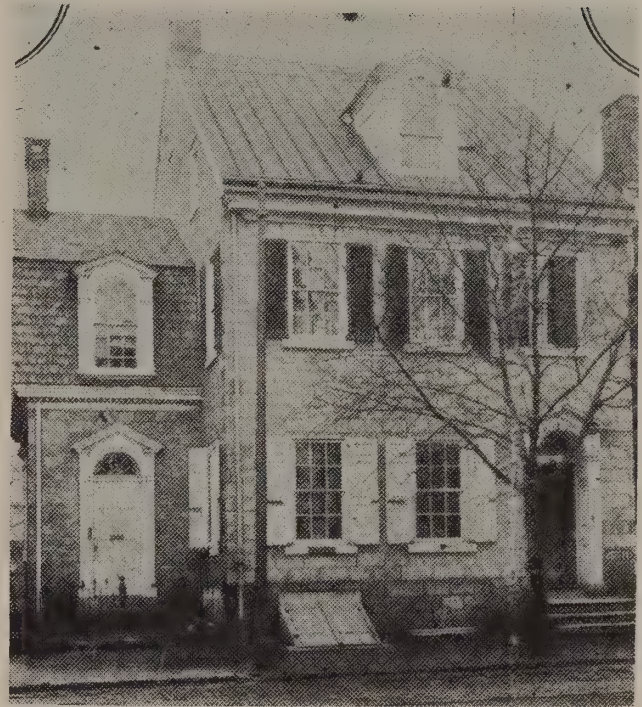
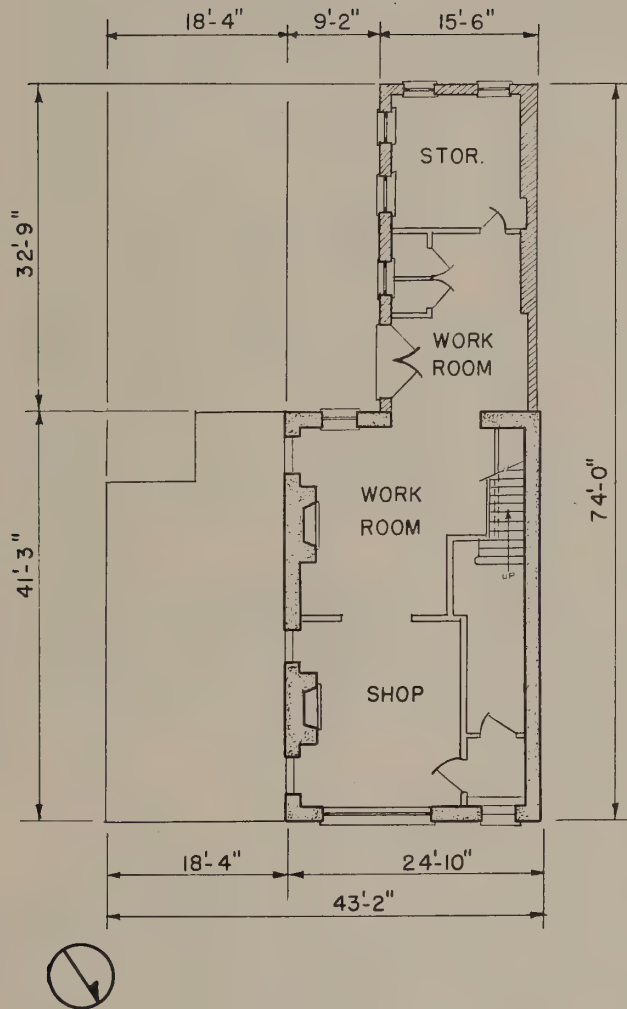
in 1875 and the existing gambrel roof and cornice were constructed.

The building has been adapted to commercial uses and practically all of the interior finish has been replaced. The similarity of plan to that of the Deshler house (H. I. 59), at 5442 Germantown Avenue, should be noted, however.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE THOMAS ARMAT HOUSE

5450 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Thomas Armat House (Federal, H. I. 61) stands on property bought by George Bringham from John Jarrett in 1726. It was subsequently owned by Robert Waln, Thomas Morgan, who probably built the house about 1792, and James Ashmead. Thomas Armat purchased it in 1807.

This stone house is two and a half stories high and has a cellar. The front portion has a frontage of 24 feet 10 inches and is 41 feet 3 inches deep. The addition to the east dates from the nineteenth century. The shop fronts are still later. It is not known precisely when the two story brick south wing was added.

but the cellar under it is peculiar in that the east foundation wall is five feet thick and increases in thickness to seven feet at its junction with the front building. The gable of the roof parallels the street and there is one dormer on the street side.

The house has the usual stair hall, here 5 feet 6 inches wide, with the stair at the rear. The entrance doorway with pilasters and a pediment may be early. There are two rooms to the left of the hall, each about 15 by 19 feet. Each has a fireplace. The second floor has a similar plan. The ceilings of the first and second

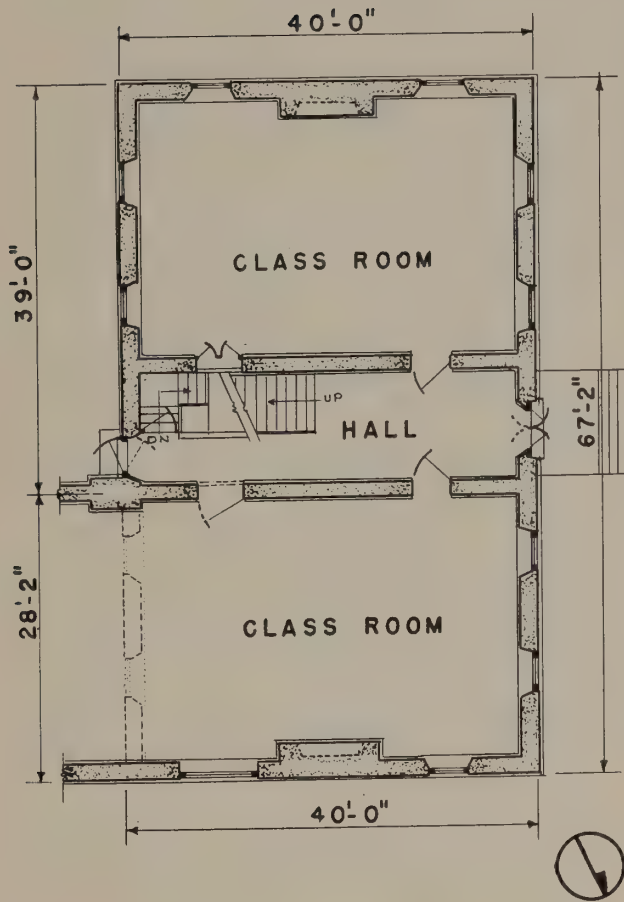
floors are about the same height, 10 feet. The third floor ceiling is 8 feet. The three windows of the second floor street front are double-hung with plank-front frames and stone sills.

There is almost nothing left of the early interior work. The fireplaces are sealed. The building is now used for business purposes and as an apartment house.

Photographs: (a) early view, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

West School House Lane and Greene Street



a



b

The Germantown Academy (Colonial, H. I. 63) was founded in 1760 and for many years was known as the Union School, because it had both English and German departments. After the Battle of Germantown it served as a hospital, as did many of the other buildings in the town. During the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 the Academy building was considered as a possible meeting place for the Congress as well as for the Pennsylvania Assembly. Upon the outbreak of the fever in 1798, the Banks of Pennsylvania and of North America removed their deposits and records to the Academy. Newspaper notices of public meetings held at the Academy make it clear that the school served the town as a community center as well as an educational institution.

Four buildings on the campus are contemporary with the Academy's founding: the Main building, the English headmaster's house west of the Main building, the German headmaster's house east of the Main building, and the David James Dove house (H. I. 64).

The Main building of the Academy is two stories high, and has a cellar under the entire building. The northwest front is constructed of dressed stone; the other façades are of rubble masonry, pointed. The building is 40 feet wide and 67 feet 2 inches long, with a gambrel-roofed addition on the southeast. Part of the original southeast wall was removed when this addition was made. The roof is shingled and the cornice is built of wood with modillions. The cellar has a ceiling height of some 7 feet. The first and second floors have a clear height of 10 feet 2 to 3 inches.

The main elevation is symmetrical on the entrance doorway. The windows are double-hung of wood with 12 lights, 6 over 6. Those on the first floor have solid, four-panel shutters while those on the second floor have two-panel wood blinds. The double entrance doors are each of five panels of wood, and stand at the head of five stone steps. The central hall is 11 feet wide. Originally, there was a classroom on either side, each 25 feet by 37 feet, with a fireplace in each gable wall.



c

These rooms were lighted by six double-hung windows, each with a glass area of about 14.7 square feet. Apparently this was considered adequate light as, with one exception, the windows have not been changed. When the addition was built on the southeast, two classrooms on both the first and second floors were thrown together and further extended to the southeast. The fireplaces in the gable walls which originally served the several classrooms have been removed in part and closed. On the second floor to the west of the hall are two classrooms, each 18 feet 3 inches by 25 feet. Each room has a corner fireplace. There is one classroom on the third floor, and windows have been added in the attic. The space over the room to the east is part of the cafeteria.

The German headmaster's house is a two-story, stone building, 20 feet 2 inches wide and 28 feet long with a shingled roof. A portion of the end gable is laid in

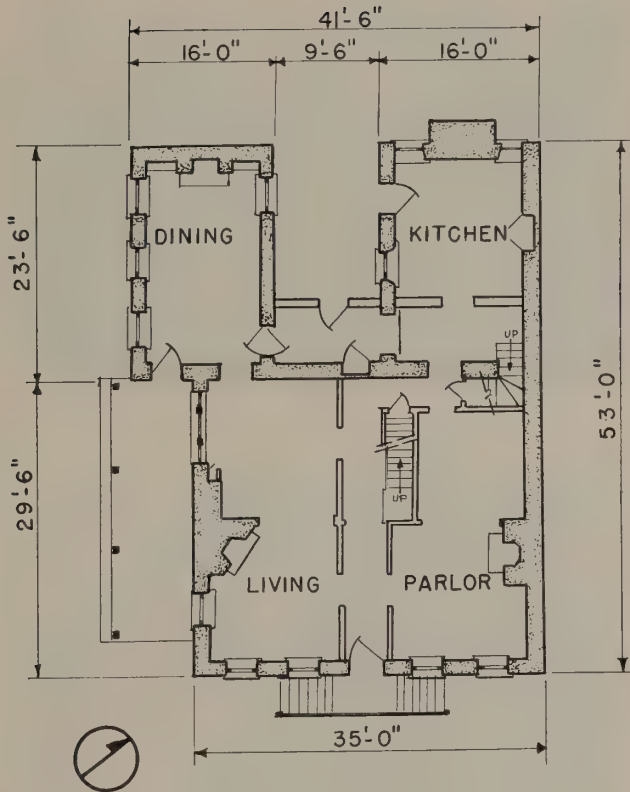
dressed stone. The first floor is divided into two rooms, a living room, 12 feet 8 inches by 17 feet 2 inches, with a corner fireplace; and a dining room, 9 feet 5 inches by 17 feet 2 inches, also having a corner fireplace. These fireplaces share the same chimney. The two rooms are separated by a small boxed-in stair. On the second floor are two bedrooms, one directly over the living room, the other over the dining room. Each has a corner fireplace. There is a cellar 7 feet high under the living room. The first floor has a ceiling of 8 feet 5 inches; the second is 7 feet 9 inches. The attic is lighted with small windows in the gable walls. The two old windows on the first floor have 15 lights, 6 over 9; the windows on the second floor have 12 lights, 6 over 6, all double-hung.

The first floor of the Main building, built in 1760, has been restored, with some slight adaptations. Much of the second floor is original and plans have been made for its restoration. The stairway, interior details, the belfry, and the exterior are either original or have been carefully restored. The exterior of the English headmaster's house is largely the original work but very little remains of the interiors. The German headmaster's house, however, is intact both inside and out. Both were built in 1760 but have had some modern additions. The David James Dove house was built in 1763 as a rival school. It was originally three stories high, but the top story was removed to comply with building laws that required the removal of this story or the addition of a fire tower. The house has been restored in detail externally and to some extent in the interior.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by Earle N. Barber, 1954; (c) Master's House (H. I. 64); by Earle N. Barber, 1954.

THE JAMES MATTHEWS HOUSE

107 West School House Lane



a



b

The James Matthews House (Federal, H. I. 65) was purchased by James Matthews in 1807. In 1810 he sold it to the Germantown Academy for \$3,200. The rentals paid to the Academy by the Bank of North America and the Bank of Pennsylvania for their quarters in the Academy buildings during the yellow fever epidemics of the 1790's helped to finance the purchase. The Academy sold the property in 1895, and it is now a private residence.

This unusually fine house is the typical two and a half story building with a full cellar characteristic of Germantown's Federal architecture. The exterior walls are of stone covered with stucco. The front is 35 feet wide and 31 feet deep, with a kitchen wing 22 feet long and 16 feet wide. The dining room wing is a later addition, and the porch is late nineteenth century. The gambrel roof is a departure from the more common gable roof.

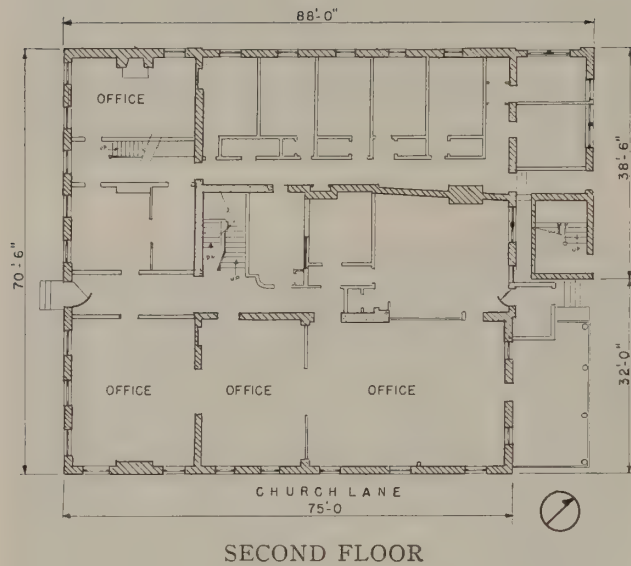
The center hall extends the depth of the house and has a door to the rear. The front parlor was 13 feet 5 inches square but the partition to the left has been removed and the room now continues a total of 24 feet 9 inches to the passage. The fireplace is in the east wall. The living room on the left of the hall was also square and the same size as the parlor. The partition in this room has also been removed and it now has a depth of 28 feet. The corner fireplace in the northern part of the room was removed and the west window enlarged.

The exterior wood details are believed to be original. The cornice is notable and the entrance doorway and the dormers are very fine. While some changes have been made in the interiors, a substantial portion is intact.

Photographs: (a) sketch made by John Richards in the 1870's, courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society; (b) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE FROMBERGER HOUSE

Market Square and Church Lane



a



b

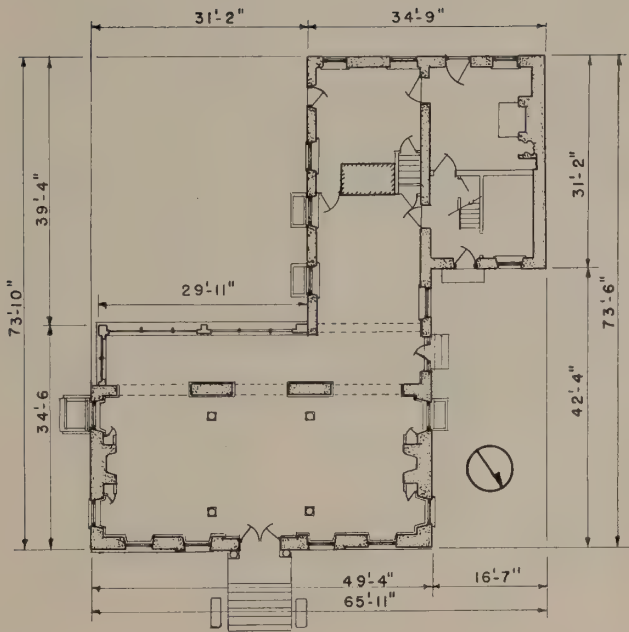
The Fromberger House (Federal, H. I. 69) was probably built by John Fromberger who acquired the property in 1795. Contemporary diaries describe the house as the first brick house to have been built in Germantown. From 1805 to 1811 the First Bank of the United States owned the building. Traditionally, the Bank is supposed to have had its offices here during the yellow fever epidemics of 1793 and 1798. Actually, however, the Bank occupied one of the Bensell houses which at that time stood at 5504 Germantown Avenue (H. I. 72).

The house is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. It has a frontage on the Square of 75 feet and is 70 feet 6 inches deep. Some of the interior walls are of stone. The exterior of the building was little changed in the succeeding years and it has been carefully restored and the interiors adapted to the uses of the Germantown Fire Insurance Company by G. Edwin Brumbaugh, F.A.I.A.

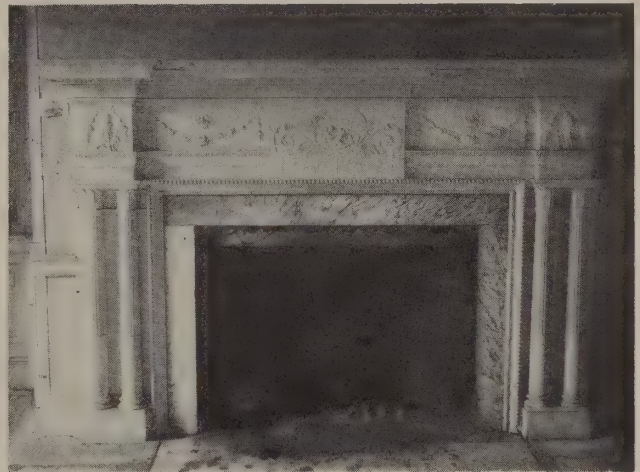
Photographs: (a) taken before the restoration of 1952-1953, courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

VERNON

5708 Germantown Avenue



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b

Vernon (Colonial, H. I. 83) is in the city park of the same name on the west side of Germantown Avenue about one hundred and fifty feet north of Cheltenham Avenue. The property was purchased from James Matthews by John Wister in 1812. It was Wister, incidentally, who named it Vernon. In 1892 the City of Philadelphia acquired Vernon and the Free Library occupied the building for some time. The first and second floors of the front portion were extensively altered at that time for the use of the Library. The changes included the removal of all partitions and stairs in this part of the building. From 1907 to 1927 Vernon was the home of the Site and Relic Society, now the Germantown Historical Society. The building is now used for community purposes.

Vernon Park occupies part of the property once owned by Melchior Meng, a horticulturist. During his tenure, and later, when the property was in the possession of John Wister, the gardens were noted for their rare trees and shrubs. Some of these still remain.

Vernon is a stone house, now covered with stucco. It is two and a half stories in height and has a cellar under all of the building, except the rear of the original house and the wing to the west. The earliest part of the building, dating from the middle of the eighteenth century, is the southeast portion of the rear wing, some 17 feet wide and 39 feet deep. The part to the west is an early addition. The front portion, 49 feet 4 inches wide by 23 feet 2 inches deep, was built by James Mat-

thews in the first decade of the nineteenth century. The one story addition to the south is a later nineteenth-century construction on what is believed to have been the site of an old porch.

The older parts of the house are in character with the early architecture of Germantown. The fenestration is casual, the windows are double-hung but are without ornament or obvious arrangement. The Matthews' addition, on the contrary, is an unusually fine example of Federal architecture. The exterior walls are laid in carefully dressed and pointed stone. The main cornice on the south and east is decorated with a carved denticulation and a carved roll moulding. The same cornice on the north and west, while retaining the same vertical ordination, is without ornament. (The cornices of the early building are plain moulds.) The main façade is symmetrical on the main entrance with a carefully studied composition of doors and windows. The windows are double-hung, generally 12 lights, 6 over 6, with flat arched voussoirs marked in the stucco. A flight of nine marble steps leading to the main entrance and the platform flanked by an iron railing give dignity and importance to the façade. The entrance doorway, with a wooden fanlight and fluted

Doric columns, 10 feet 7 inches high, on either side, is a beautiful instance of the elaborate detail fashionable at the time.

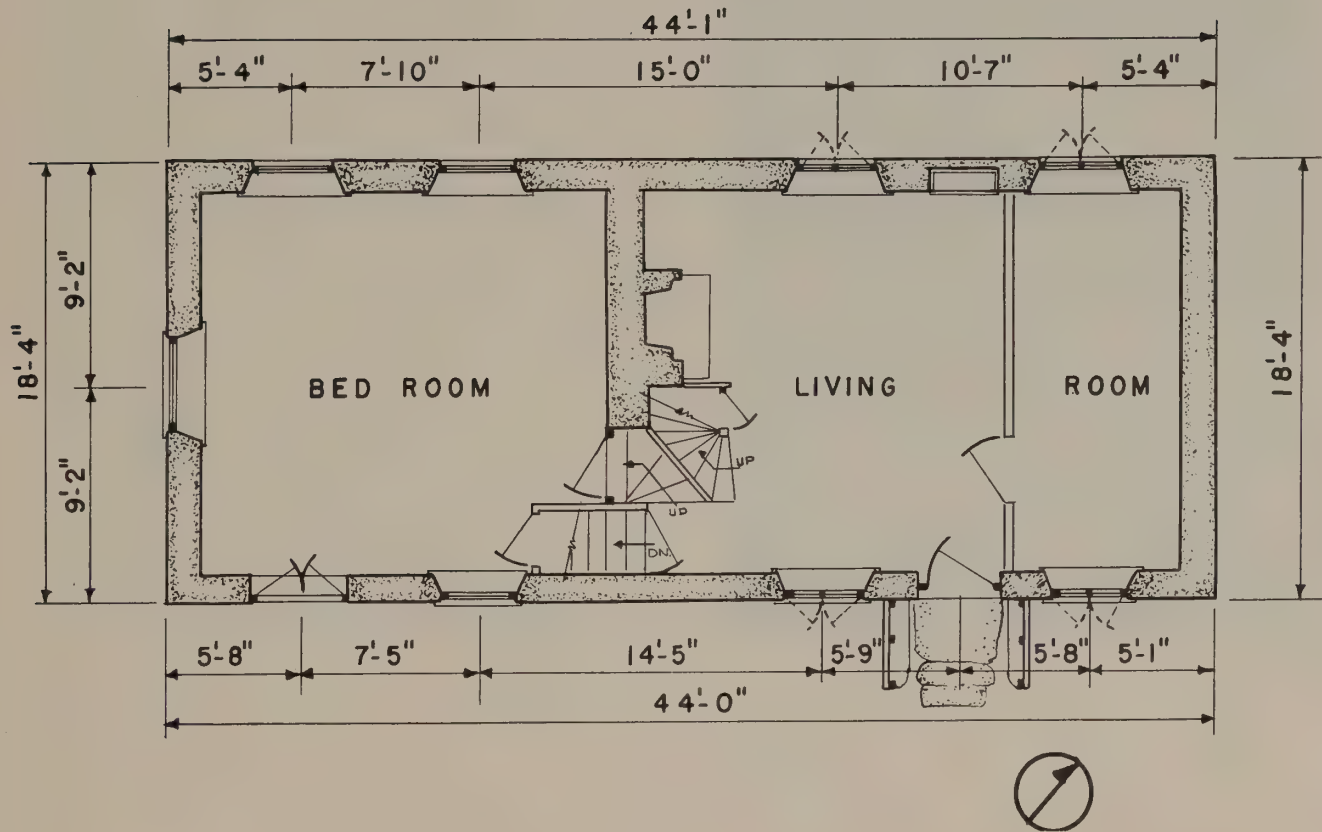
The entrance door opens directly into a room now occupying the entire first floor of the wing. At either end of the room are large fireplaces, similar in size but differing in detail. Each has a sculptured panel over the center of the fireplace opening. The ceiling in this room is 11 feet 4 inches high. On the second floor, also, one room occupies this space. It has a fine fireplace in each end wall. The ceiling here is 11 feet 3 inches. The third floor contains two rooms, each of which is 16 feet square; a room on the north, 7 feet by 9 feet 5 inches; and the remains of the stair hall, 9 feet 5 inches wide and 13 feet deep. The two square rooms are lighted by dormers with arched sash and richly decorated pilasters and pediments.

The cellar is half above ground. The entire roof is now covered with tin laid over old shingles. It is believed that most of the wood detail is either original or a good replacement.

Photographs courtesy of the Library of Congress; (b) parlor fireplace, by Thomas Shoemaker, 1890.

THE RITTENHOUSE HOUSE

Fairmount Park



The Rittenhouse House (Colonial, H. I. 87) is in Fairmount Park between Paper Mill Run and the Lincoln Drive at Morris Street. The house, built about 1707, was owned by William Rittenhouse. It is famous, not only because of its association with Pennsylvania's paper industry but, also, as the birthplace of David Rittenhouse. The City purchased the property in 1890.

The house is built of rubble masonry and has a shingle roof. The plan is a plain rectangle, 44 feet long and 18 feet 4 inches wide, but it has a picturesque quality due largely to the variation in floor levels and roof lines. It is divided by a chimney stack west of the center which indicates that the kitchen may have been the earliest part of the house. This room and the dining room to the west are built on the ground, without cellars. Recesses in the masonry, on the north wall above the two casements in the dining room, were prepared to receive out-lookers, and there is a stone water table, the customary indication of a pent eave, 2 feet 6 inches above these holes. There is a single outside door in the north wall of the kitchen, but the principal

entrance to the house is in the south wall of the living room. This entrance is protected by a roofed shed. A pair of doors, with sills now 5 feet above the ground, are in the south wall of the bedroom at the other end of the house.

The kitchen is 14 feet 8 inches wide and some 15 feet long, abutting two rooms, 6 feet wide, to the east and dividing the width of the house. The fireplace takes the entire west wall with the exception of a door north of the fireplace leading to the dining room. The kitchen floor is two steps lower than that of the dining room. This latter room is 14 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 5 inches and has no fireplace. In the southeast corner a flight of nine steps, 2 feet 5 inches wide, leads to the living room which is directly over the kitchen and about 6 feet above the dining room floor. The living room is the same size as the kitchen. It has a fireplace in the west wall. To the east of the living room, and opening from it, is a room 7 feet wide and 14 feet 8 inches long. To the left are two sets of winding stairs. One, with five steps, leads to the bedroom over the dining room. The other, built around a center post, goes to



the attic. The ceiling height of the living room and dining room is about 7 feet 3 inches; that of the kitchen is about 7 feet.

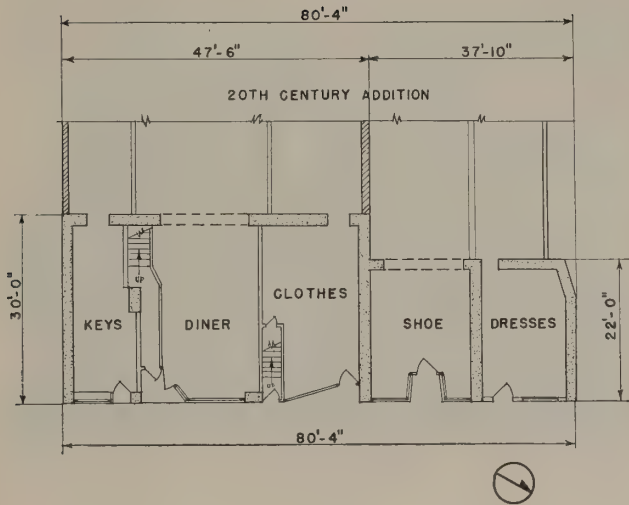
All the windows in the bedroom are double-hung. Two are 2 feet 6 inches wide and 5 feet 6 inches high; the other two are the same width and 6 inches higher. All have 18 lights, 9 over 9. There is also a small double-hung window in the east gable. All the other windows are wood casements with wood muntins.

A slate tablet in the east wall bears the initials W/CR and the date 1707 incised in the slate. The interiors are well preserved. Both the unusual woodwork and a great deal of the wrought iron hardware are in remarkable condition. The building is maintained by the Park Commission.

Photograph from the north, by the Survey, 1952.

THE KEYSER HOUSES

5918-5926 Germantown Avenue



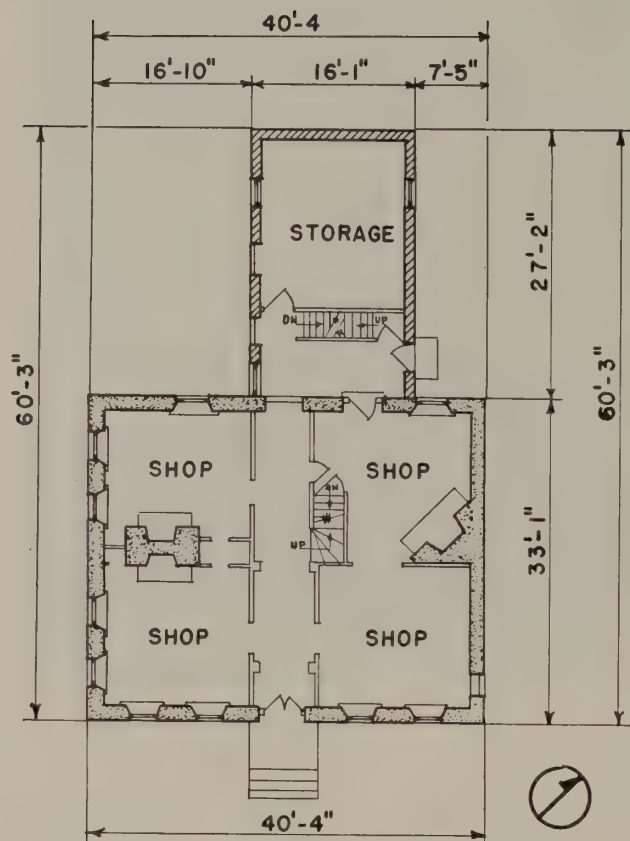
The Keyser Houses (Colonial, H. I. 93) are on property owned successively by Charles Engle, tanner, Samuel McDowell, cordwainer, and Samuel Engle, cordwainer. These small, two story houses are of stone, stuccoed. They have a total frontage on Germantown Avenue of 80 feet 4 inches, and vary in depth from 22 feet to 30 feet. The brick additions in the rear are not

shown in the plan. They date from the nineteenth century. All of the buildings have been converted into stores and practically nothing remains of the interiors.

Photograph taken before 1895, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society.

THE ENGLE HOUSE

5938 Germantown Avenue



The Engle House (Colonial, H. I. 94), in the rear of 5938 Germantown Avenue, is thought to have been built about 1759 by Benjamin Engle, a tanner. In 1905 it was moved from its original site on the street about 120 feet to its present location. Modern stores were then built on the vacated space.

Architecturally, the Engle House is one of the most important of the early buildings. It shares with houses like Grumblethorpe, the Green Tree Tavern, the Keyser, and the Johnson houses the characteristics of the Germantown house at its best. The main part of the house is 40 feet 4 inches wide and 33 feet 1 inch in depth, with a two story, brick rear wing measuring 16 feet by 27 feet. The house has two stories, an attic, and a cellar. The walls are rubble masonry, except the front wall which is made of dressed stone, carefully laid. It has a single gable, the length of the house, with two dormers on the front and one on the rear. The big cornice at the eaves has a plaster cove and a plainly moulded box cornice extending around three sides of the house. The rakes of the gables have a smaller but similar cornice. A pent eave and moulded cornice with

a pediment over the entrance doorway extends along the forty foot front just above the first floor windows. The roof is now covered with metal sheeting. The date stone bears the inscription, B.E.E.A.D. 1759.

In its original location, a broad platform and steps led to the front door, which was flanked by benches on either side. To the left of the door was a large cellarway covered with sloping wooden doors. Both the benches and the treatment of the cellarway were typical of the early Germantown houses.

The first floor plan is quite similar to that of the Green Tree Tavern. There is a center hall and, in this case, a vestibule. Both are 6 feet 4 inches wide. A boxed-in, winding stair is at the rear of the hall. On the right, beyond the vestibule, a single door leads to a corner room, 14 feet 6 inches by 15 feet. From this room an opening 8 feet wide leads to another corner room, 14 by 16 feet, with the stairs occupying one corner and a fireplace the other. The front room on the left of the entrance is 14 feet 4 inches by 15 feet. This room has a fireplace in the west partition, with closets on either side. The rear room on this side of

the house is 13 by 15 feet 9 inches, with a fireplace in its east side. These fireplaces share the center chimney. The rear wing has two rooms and a small boxed-in stair.

The second floor plan is similar to the first, except that the room in the northeast corner has a fireplace. The third floor has four corner rooms.

The ceilings of the first and second floors are a little over 9 feet. On the third floor, the ceiling is 7 feet. Most of the windows are double-hung with plank fronts. The four windows on the first floor front have sash that are 2 feet 4 inches wide and 6 feet high; those above them have the same width and are 5 feet 2 inches high.

The stairs, the panelling around the several fire-

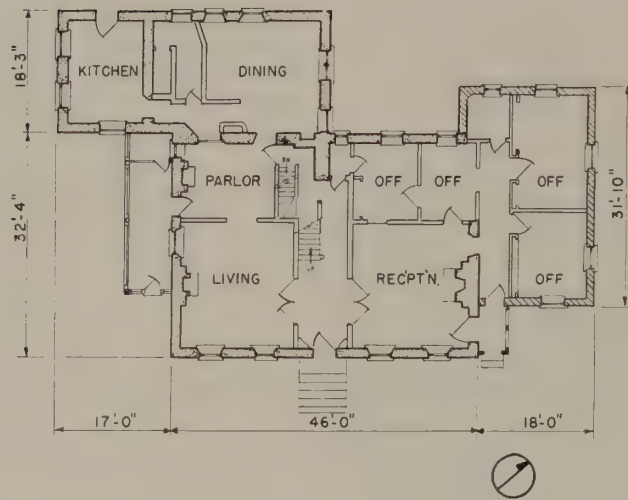
places, the interior doors, the wood trim, and the floors of this fine old landmark are remarkably well preserved. A considerable amount of the early wrought-iron hardware is also intact. The building has been used for some time as an antique shop and it has not been possible to note the full extent of the old work. Fortunately, very little has been done to the wood detail, so that the original material could be made available for study.

The building is weathertight but in need of renovation. It suffered no material damage when it was moved. It is privately owned and used for commercial purposes, but can be seen by visitors.

Photograph by Earle N. Barber, 1954.

THE DANIEL PASTORIUS HOUSE

25 High Street



a



b

The Daniel Pastorius House (Federal, H. I. 97) is now at 25 High Street. Francis Daniel Pastorius originally acquired the land in 1689 from the Frankfort Company and the property remained in the Pastorius family until 1864. Daniel Pastorius, who was a tanner, built the house about 1796. The house was moved to a site south of the Francis Daniel Pastorius house (H. I. 100) when High Street was opened and moved again to its present location in 1898.

This two and a half story house has a full cellar. The walls of the house are of stone, stuccoed. It is believed that the original building is the front stone portion, 32 feet by 46 feet. The wings to the northeast and northwest are nineteenth-century additions. The square dormers in the pitched roof seem to be original,

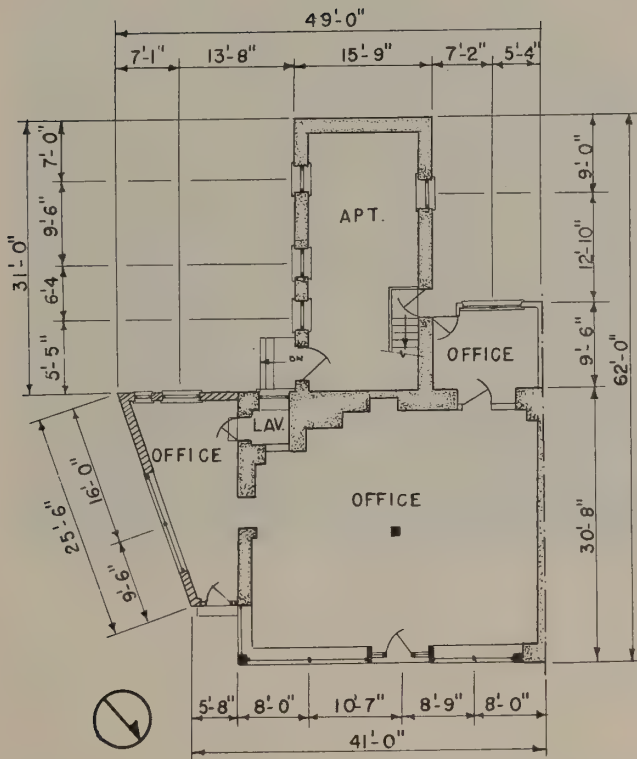
as do the shutters in the façade, the moulding around the front doorway, and the cornice.

Little remains of the interior. The right side of the first floor is now an office and the upper floors have been made into apartments. However, the flooring on the second and third floors, part of the circular stair in the center hall, and the moulding and trim in the center hall are original.

Mr. G. Clarence Johnson supplied the architectural data for these notes.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's when the house was still on Germantown Avenue, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress.

6000 Germantown Avenue



The house at 6000 Germantown Avenue (Colonial, H. I. 99) is an example of the two and a half story stone house at one time common on both sides of Germantown Avenue. It was once the property of Joseph Johnson and continued in Johnson hands until 1822.

The early building had a street front of 41 feet and a depth of 31 feet to the rear wing, which is 15 feet 9 inches wide and 31 feet 3 inches long. Both are constructed of rubble masonry. The one story addition on the Harvey Street side is modern. The roof of the main house is a single gable parallel to the street; the gable of the rear wing abuts it. The wood cornice is boxed with bed moulds and a crown member. The gables have a moulded barge board. Some parts of this are old. The two dormers on Germantown Avenue are modern. There is a "summer beam" under the first floor framing.

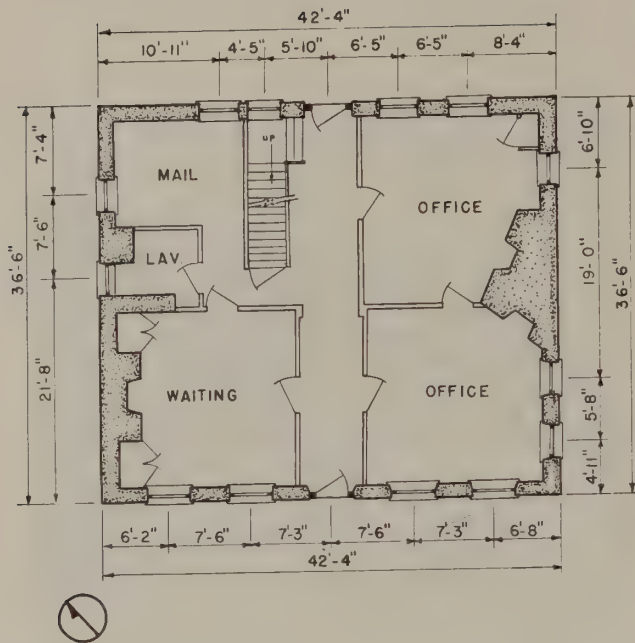
The old front door has been preserved, and some of the old flooring remains on the upper floors. The five second floor double-hung window frames on Germantown Avenue and the three on Harvey Street are old. The sash are about 2 feet 4 inches by 4 feet 4 inches; the lights are modern. There is a chimney at the intersection of the two parts of the house on Harvey Street, but no indication of fireplaces in the front portion.

Originally, the house had a center door and hall with rooms on either side. All of the interior partitions have been removed or substantially altered, however. The rear of the first floor has been made into an apartment; the second floor contains three apartments and the third floor one. Offices occupy the remaining space.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE GREEN TREE TAVERN

6019 Germantown Avenue



a

The Green Tree Tavern (Colonial, H. I. 102) was built by Daniel Pastorius, the grandson of Francis Daniel Pastorius. The date stone is inscribed DPS 1748, the initials standing for Daniel and Sarah Pastorius. The Green Tree was kept as a tavern for many years and was known variously as the Saddler's Arms, the Hornet's Nest, and Mackinett's Tavern. In 1907 the First Methodist Church acquired the property. The building was moved bodily northward in 1930 to its present location to accommodate an addition to the church.

The street front and the south gable of this two and a half story house are laid with finely dressed stone. The stone courses in these walls for the height of the first floor are quite similar in size and have a fairly exact alignment. The other walls are of rubble masonry. The pent over the heads of the first floor windows is the same length as the house and returns the full depth of the south gable. The broad gable and long pent eave are characteristic of an interesting period in the evolution of Germantown building. The cornice at the main eaves has a plaster cove and a moulded cornice which returns at the eaves and receives a smaller, raking cornice of wood. The cornices and the three dormers are well preserved. The moulded members forming the cornice of the eaves and

the detail of the pediment over the entrance are modern and an inaccurate restoration. The original covering of the roof has been replaced by sheet metal.

The original platform and steps in front of the door were not rebuilt when the house was moved. Neither were the seats flanking the door nor the outside cellarway with its sloping doors. Two of the arched cellar windows have been filled with masonry. The existing cellar was built at the time the house was moved and may not be a replica of the old one. It may be noted that it is divided laterally by a stone wall under the partition between the north and south rooms instead of in the customary place under the hall partition.

The main door of six raised panels, 3 feet 3 inches wide by 8 feet high, is original. It is on the center of the hall, which is 6 feet 2 inches wide, and extends to an arched opening leading to the stair hall. The stairs start at one side and give an impression of added width to the hall. The stair case is largely a modern adaptation of the old one. On the right of the hall are two rooms, each with a corner fireplace. The room on the street front is 16 feet 2 inches by 16 feet 10 inches; the one in the rear is 15 feet 1 inch by 14 feet 6 inches. The front room on the left of the hall measures 13 feet 1 inch by 16 feet 9 inches, and has a fireplace. Back of this room is a small room and lavatory, part of a modern alteration.



b

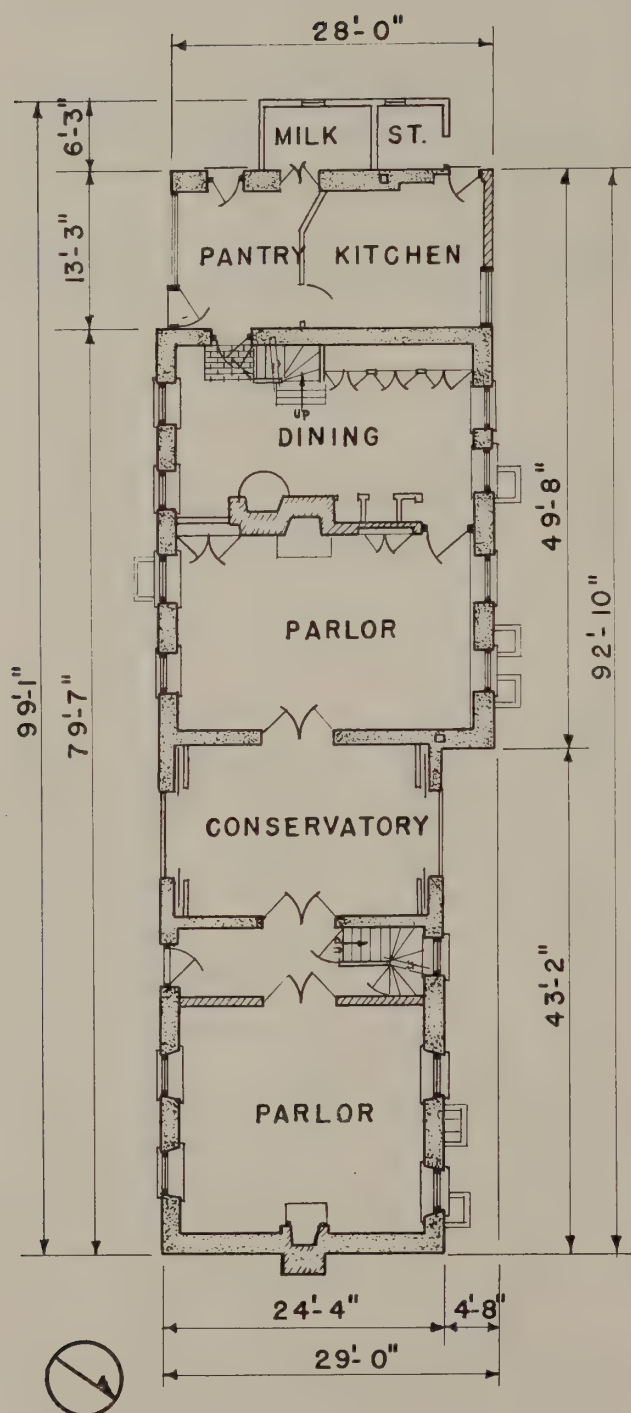
The disposition of the rooms on the second floor was originally similar to that on the first floor, but the southwest corner room has been enlarged by the removal of the hall partition. There are fireplaces in each room corresponding in position to those in the first floor rooms. The third floor is divided into four rooms. No material alterations have been made to them. There are no fireplaces on this floor.

The interior of the building was renovated when it was moved and, while it is maintained in excellent condition, there is not much left of the early house. It is owned by the First Methodist Church of Germantown and is open to visitors.

Photographs: (*a*) taken before 1875, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (*b*) by the Survey, 1952.

WYCK

6026 Germantown Avenue



a

Wyck (Colonial, H. I. 104) stands on land owned in the 1690's by Hans Milan. Milan's daughter married Dirck Jansen and the property descended through the hands of daughters, first to the Wistars and then to the Haines family, the present owners.

Wyck is actually two houses built separately and later joined together. The older part of the rear portion of this magnificent old house was built about 1690 by Milan. The whole was remodeled in 1824 by William Strickland for Reuben Haines. No major changes have been made since that time.

The building is rectangular in plan, 24 feet 4 inches wide and 79 feet 7 inches deep with a 5-foot offset, 43 feet from the street front. The slate roof, laid over the old shingled roof, extends in a simple gable, broken only at the rear offset, through the full depth of the house. This plain roof line, the trellis covering the southeast wall, and the ordered fenestration of this elevation contribute in no small part to the charm of the house. There is a cellar under the entire house, with the exception of the northwest corner of the old kitchen which occupied part of the present dining room and parlor. The front portion of the cellar under the north parlor has a brick floor. The pantry and the present kitchen are in a one story lean-to which is a later addition. In addition to the house, the brick terraces, and the arbor, several out-buildings remain, among them a smoke house, a wood shed, and a granary which subsequently was made into a carriage house.



b

A letter from Reuben Haines to his wife, dated from Germantown, May 23, 1824, makes it clear that the entire first floor was rebuilt at that time. Previously, the rear part of the house, which now contains the parlor and dining room, had been divided into three rooms with an entry to the northwest. The present dining room and parlor fireplaces occupy the same position as did the original chimney stack, which was triangular in plan and measured 14 feet on a side in the cellar. The kitchen fireplace on the south was 7 feet wide and had an elliptical baking oven 3 feet wide and 5 feet deep at one side. The partition separating the kitchen from the room to the northwest was coincident with the northwest side of the winding stairs in the dining room.

The story heights are modest at Wyck. There is just a little over 6 feet of head room in the cellar. The first floor has a ceiling height of 8 feet 6 inches; the second floor, 7 feet 9 inches; and the third floor is 6 feet 3 inches to the roof intersection.

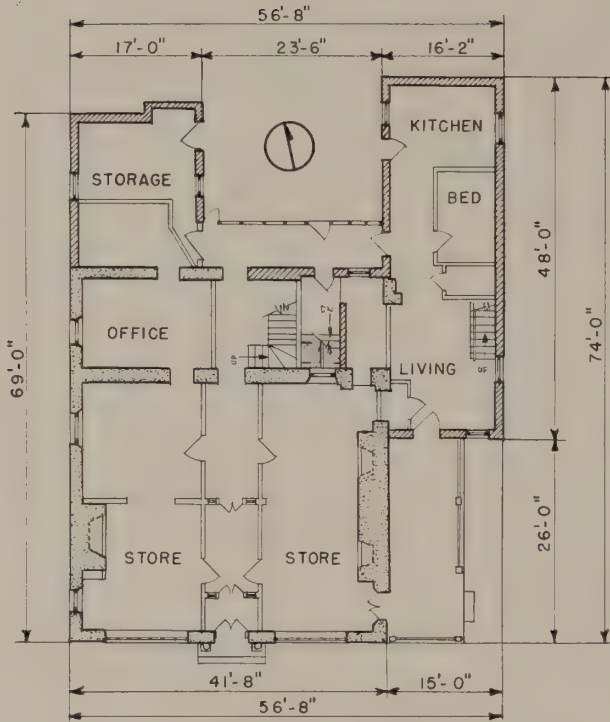
The house is in an excellent state of repair. A great deal of the original hardware has been preserved.

The drawing of the first floor plan is part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The complete survey contains 22 drawings illustrating the building in detail. These are in the Library of Congress. Copies are on file in the Germantown Historical Society.

Photographs by Thomas Shoemaker, 1889, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE LAURENS

6043 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Laurens (Colonial, H. I. 105) is said by Watson to have been built by Dr. Christopher Witt and to have been the first three story house in Germantown. It was purchased from the heirs of Christopher Warner in 1789 by Dr. William Shippen. Shippen's son-in-law, Dr. Samuel Blair, occupied it during the first decades of the nineteenth century.

This unusual three and a half story house is of stone, stuccoed. The original building was the front portion, 41 feet 8 inches wide and 36 feet deep, with a rear wing, 13 feet deep, which included the main stairwell. The house has a full cellar. The other parts of the house are later additions. The house is reported to have had two pent eaves when it was first built. The one was at the second, the other at the third floor level. No available drawings or photographs substantiate this and verification of the tradition must await the investigation of the front wall incident upon restoration of the building.

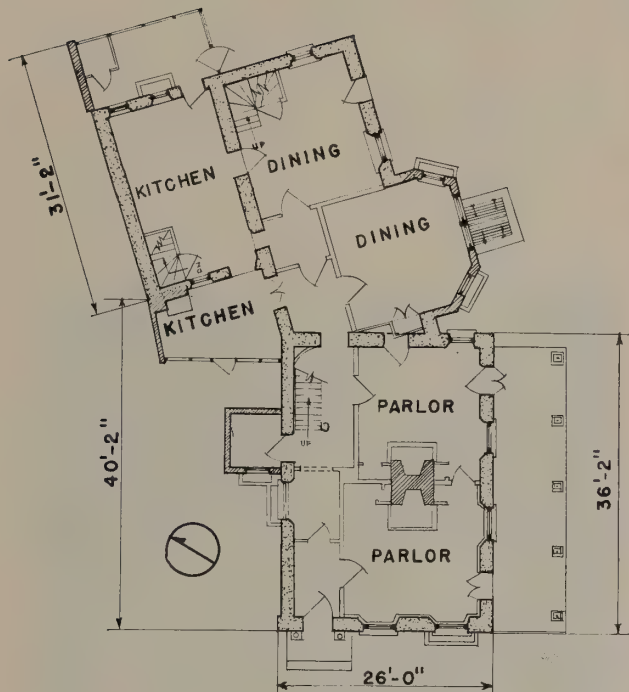
The center hall (and vestibule) is 6 feet 7 inches wide and extends 32 feet 5 inches to a stone wall which presumably was an exterior wall originally. The room to the right of the hall is 14 feet 10 inches wide. The dividing partition between it and the back room on this side has been removed, but the two rooms would each have been 16 feet long. Each had a fireplace. The corner room to the left of the hall is 15 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 7 inches. The fireplace in the west wall projects 3 feet into it. The room to the rear is 15 feet 6 inches square.

The handrail on the stairs from the first to the second floor seems to be original, as do most of the interior doors throughout the house. All the fireplaces have been sealed.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE BLAIR HOUSE

6105 Germantown Avenue



The Blair House (Federal, H. I. 108) was built by the Reverend Samuel Blair for his son, Samuel Jr. The date stone in the south gable was inscribed 1806. The house was demolished some years ago.

The building was of stone, stuccoed on the southeast and southwest elevations. It was two and a half stories high and had a cellar which extended under the entire house. The plan was quite irregular. The part nearest the street was a rectangle, 26 feet 4 inches wide and 36 feet 2 inches deep; the rear wing adjoining the main house on the northeast appears to have been an earlier building, and even the walls of the kitchen were far from parallel. The exterior of the house was extremely simple. The main cornice, the single front dormer, and the entrance doorway and vestibule were, however, richly decorated. The front part had a slate roof; the rear wing was covered with tin when the survey was made in 1934.

Three stone steps led from the entrance walk to a handsome arched doorway, giving on the vestibule and

the hall. This doorway has been preserved by the Germantown Historical Society. To the right of the hall was the front parlor, about 16 feet square; to the rear of this was another parlor, 15 feet 7 inches by 16 feet. Each had fireplace and shared the same chimney. The main stair had a semi-circular landing and winding steps. The rear wing contained the dining room, 16 feet by 18 feet; a servants' dining room, 14 feet by 15 feet, and the kitchens.

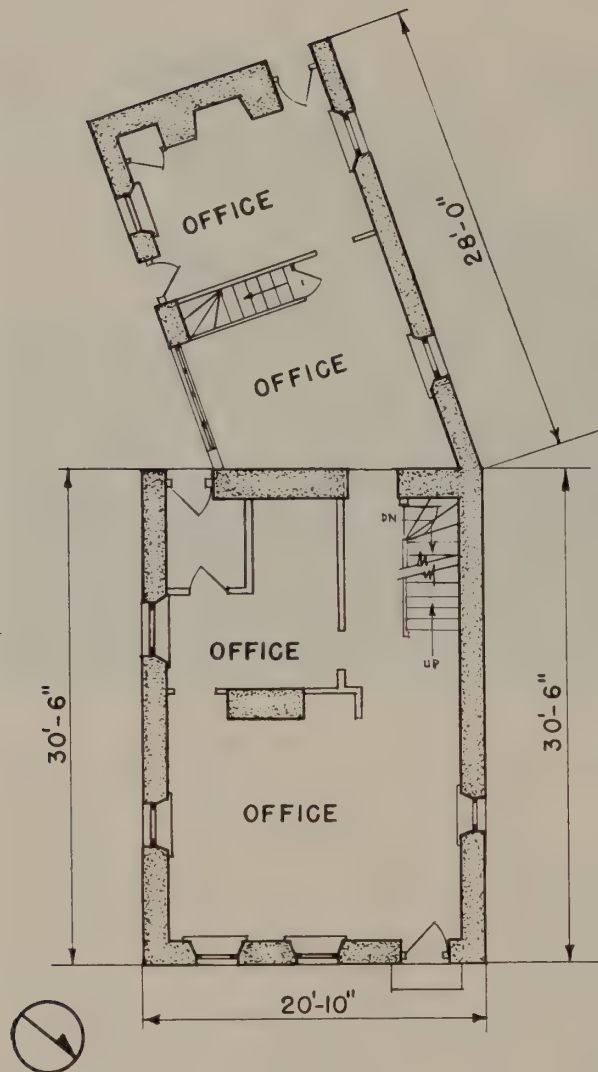
There were two bedrooms on the second floor over the parlors. The front bedroom extended the full width of the house. In the rear were two servants' bedrooms and a sitting room and back stair. The two bedrooms on the third floor front were reached by the main stair only.

The first floor ceiling was 10 feet 7 inches; the second was 9 feet 10 inches and the attic was 8 feet to the roof intersection.

Photograph by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE DIRCK JANSEN HOUSE

6112 Germantown Avenue



The Dirck Jansen House (Colonial, H. I. 109) is a two and a half story house of stone, stuccoed. The front part of the house is 20 feet 10 inches wide and 30 feet 6 inches deep. The rear wing is 16 feet wide and 28 feet long. It is possible that the rear wing is the oldest part of the building. The front part was probably built next, and the two sections joined at a still later date. The fact that there is a cellar under the front and rear parts but none under the center connecting section makes this theory plausible.

The stair hall, about 6 feet wide, was on the west side of the house. The front part of this and the partition have been removed. The front room would orig-

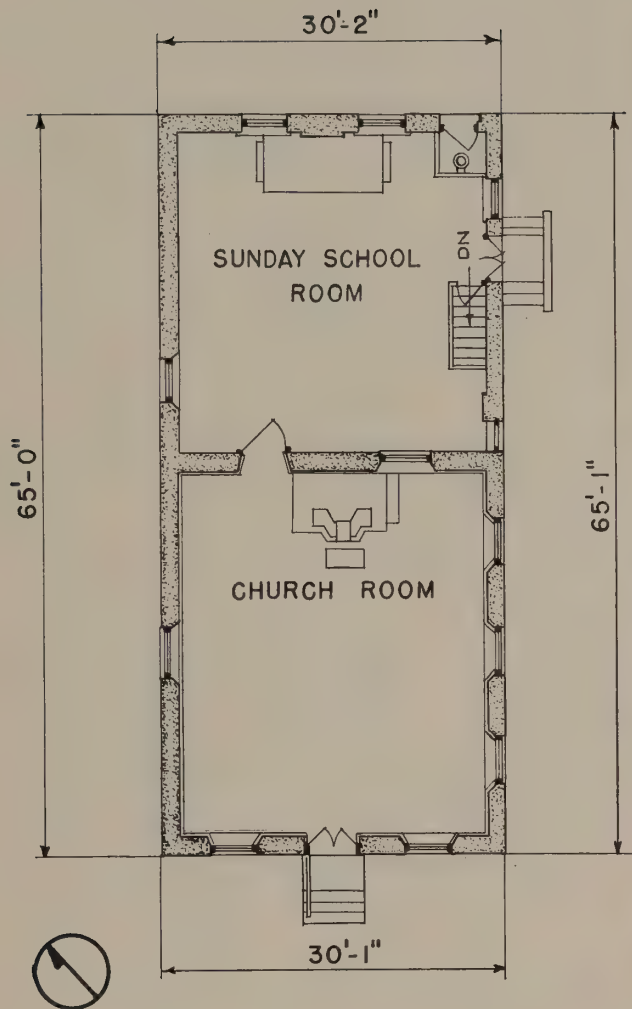
inally have been 12 feet 4 inches wide and 15 feet 4 inches deep, with a fireplace on the south wall. The room to the back, without the present subdivisions, would have been 11 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 8 inches.

The interior of the building has been considerably altered to accommodate offices on the first and second floors. Few examples of the original ironwork remain. The handrail on the stairs to the second floor seems to be original, and the random flooring on all floors may be original.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE MENNONITE MEETING HOUSE

6119 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Mennonite Meeting House (Colonial, H. I. 111) is a stone building constructed in 1770 and still in active use. It replaced an earlier log house erected about 1708. The Germantown congregation was the first Mennonite congregation to be established in America. William Rittenhouse was the first pastor, and Christopher Dock one of the most famous masters of the school the Mennonites maintained in connection with their church.

The original meeting house is 30 feet 1 inch wide and 35 feet 6 inches long. There is no cellar, but a ventilated air space was provided under the floor. A simple gabled roof is covered with shingles, and supported by two trusses of wood. The bottom chord is an 8 by 8-inch timber bolted with metal to the king

posts. The outside eaves cornice is built up of wood, 15 inches high and projecting 18 inches, with bed moulds and a crown member. The raking cornice on the gables is similar but without a bed mould.

The entrance doorway is in the center of the gable end facing the street. Five cement steps lead to it. The two-fold door is 3 feet 10 inches wide and 8 feet 5 inches high, with a plain casing and a pediment over it. All of the members are held with wooden pegs. Each door has two raised panels on the outside. The inside is built of flush vertical planks. The doors are equipped with the original wrought-iron hardware, strap hinges, top and bottom bolts, and a box lock.

The interior has plastered walls and a plaster ceiling fastened to the bottom chords of the trusses. The

meeting room is wainscoted with vertical flush boards to about the sill of the windows. The ceiling height is 11 feet 8 inches.

The church room is lighted with six double-hung windows, one on either side of the entrance and three in one of the side walls and one in the other. The sash are all similar. Each one is 3 feet 3 inches wide and 5 feet 9 inches high, with 24 lights arranged 12 over 12. They are 1 inch thick; the muntins are $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches to the glass. The windows have wooden exterior sills and wooden shutters, flush on both sides, all supplied with wrought-iron strap hinges, bolts, pins, and catches. The insides of the windows have moulded wood trim, splayed wood jambs, and aprons finishing over the wainscot.

The room has a center aisle leading to the speaker's

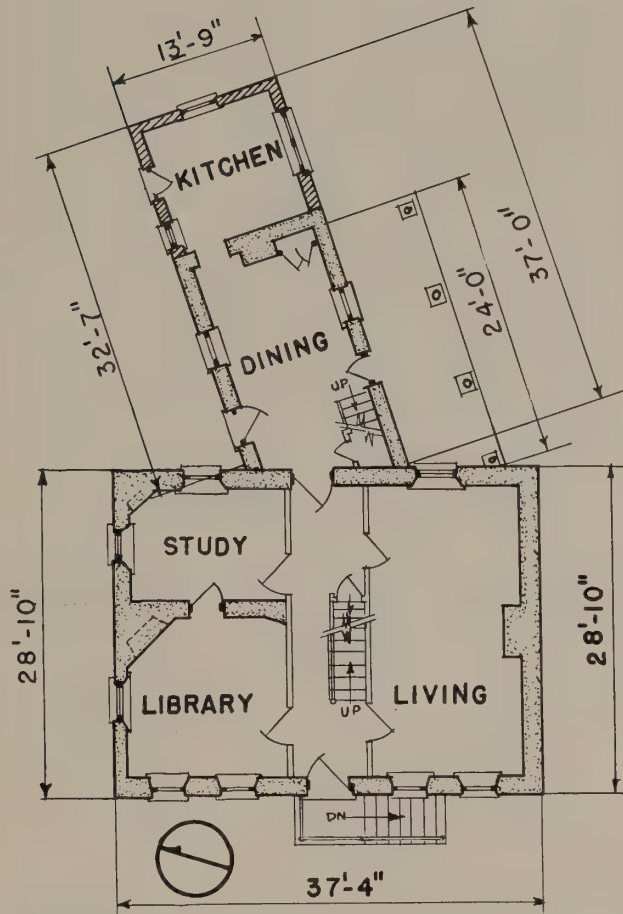
platform. On either side of the aisle are eight benches about 2 feet 4 inches back to back. They are made of wood, without cushions or arm rests. They have, however, a horizontal plank at shoulder height and a book shelf. There is room for about eighty people. The communion table, 2 feet $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide and 2 feet 10 inches long, is made of wood with a moulded top, turned splayed legs, and moulded stretchers near the floor. It is said that the first protest against slavery was signed on this table in 1688.

To the south and east of the meeting house is the graveyard.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE KEYSER HOUSE

6205 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Keyser House (Colonial, H. I. 114) was probably built by Jacob Keyser after 1744. It remained in the Keyser family until 1945. In 1950 it was demolished to provide space for a super-market.

This house was one of the finest examples of Germantown architecture. Two and a half stories high, the front was of dressed stone, the gables of pointed rubble. The rear wing, of stone covered with stucco, was two stories high, and may have been part of an earlier house. The disposition of the walls would seem to indicate this. A one story brick addition was built much later. The principal part of the house on the street was 37 feet 4 inches

wide and 28 feet 10 inches deep. The rear wing was 13 feet 9 inches wide, and before the addition of the brick extension, 24 feet deep on the long side. The roof was finished with a simple barge board resting on the return of the street cornice, which was moulded but without ornament. Over the heads of the first floor windows on the street side was a pent eave of wood with a shingled roof. The pent stopped just short of the gable walls.

The street elevation was symmetrical on the center door, which originally stood at the head of a flight of five stone steps. When the street grade was lowered these steps were removed and a flight of nine steps,

paralleling the house, was substituted. On either side of the entrance doorway were two double-hung windows, each 2 feet 3 inches by 5 feet 6 inches, with 15 lights, 6 over 9. The shutters were panelled on one side and flush on the reverse. The door was solid wood, eight panelled, with a plain glass transom. The second floor windows were immediately over those below and one window was placed over the entrance door. These windows were the same width as the first floor windows and about 5 feet high, with 12 lights, 6 over 6. At the time of the survey (1934), the old lights had been removed and larger lights substituted. The two dormers on the street were made of plain casings and a moulded pediment, the sash were 2 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 11 inches with 12 lights, 6 over 6.

The center hall was 6 feet 3 inches wide, the stairs starting a few feet from the entrance. To the right, was the living room, 13 feet 8 inches by 25 feet 8 inches, with a fireplace in the gable wall. To the left, on the street front, was the library, 14 feet 5 inches by 14 feet. It had a corner fireplace and a door to the study in the rear. This latter room was 10 feet 4 inches by 13 feet 8 inches. The dining room was entered from the end of the hall.

The second floor was divided into four bedrooms. The two over the living room were without fireplaces. The one over the library might have had a corner fireplace at one time. The fourth, over the study, had

none. A sewing room and bath, reached by a winding stair, were over the dining room. The two bedrooms on the third floor front were lighted, in one instance, by a single dormer, in the other, by a dormer and a small window in the gable. The rest of the attic was used for storage. It was served by the main stairs only.

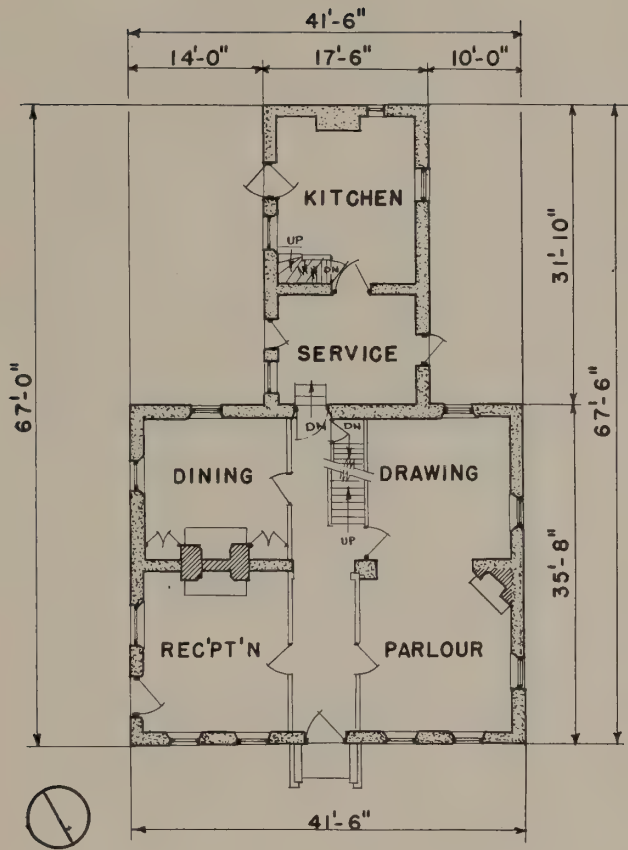
The cellar was divided into two parts without any communication between them. One cellar was under the library and study and had a cellar door to the street and a stair to a trap door in the study floor. The other cellar was under the western part of the living room and was reached by stairs under the main stairs and, at one time, by another cellar door to the street. There was no cellar under the dining room but, curiously, there was a well 4 feet in diameter and 24 feet deep under the north wall of this room. It might have been accessible from the outside as well as from the cellar under the study.

The cellars had just 6 feet clearance; the first floor ceiling was 8 feet 5 inches; the second, 7 feet 9 inches; and the attic, 7 feet 2 inches to the roof. The roofs were covered with tin over the old shingles.

Photographs: (a) early view, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by John Bullock, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE JOHNSON HOUSE

6306 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Johnson House (Colonial, H. I. 119) was built, 1765-1768, by Dirck Jansen. Jansen built the house for his son, John Johnson, who lived there after his marriage with Rachel Livesey, daughter of Thomas Livesey of Glenfern. The Johnsons were tanners and their tannery was at the rear of the property. The house remained in the Johnson family until 1920, when it was purchased by the Women's Club of Germantown. It was a center of fighting during the Battle of Germantown, and bullets and a cannon ball left their marks on three doors and the northwest wall.

The old house is two stories high with a third floor attic. There is a cellar under all of it except a part of the rear wing. The street elevation is laid with carefully dressed stone; the other walls are rubble. The house has a frontage of 41 feet 6 inches and a depth of 35 feet 8 inches. The rear wing is 17 feet 6 inches wide and 31 feet 10 inches long. A pent eave over the heads of the first floor windows extends the full width of the house and returns the full width of

the northeast gable. The roof of the main house is a simple gable with the lower gable of the service wing abutting it. The main eaves cornice is boxed with bed moulds and crown members. The shingle roof is finished at the gables with a smaller moulded cornice. The pent eaves have large moulded cornices and one pediment over the entrance. The two dormer windows were added when the house served as a station of the Underground Railway.

The street façade is symmetrical. A stone platform, built originally to provide spaces for the benches which once were on either side of the door, and one step lead to the entrance. This is on the center of the stair hall, which is 6 feet 8 inches wide. The main stairs go from the first floor to the attic. The staircase is made with turned newels and balusters and a moulded handrail. On the right of the hall is a parlor, 15 feet 5 inches by 16 feet 2 inches, with a corner fireplace in the gable wall. A large opening in the south wall connects this room with the drawing room, 14 feet 6 inches by 15



c

feet. To the left of the hall, on the street, is a reception room, 15 feet 5 inches by 16 feet, with a fireplace in the south wall. Back of it is the dining room, 15 feet 5 inches wide and 13 feet 5 inches deep to the face of the fireplace and cupboards framing it. The fireplace in the dining room and those in two of the bedrooms extend the width of the rooms. All the fireplaces are panelled in wood to the ceiling. A single door opens from the dining room onto the hall opposite the stairs. A door and three steps lead down from the hall to the service wing and the kitchen, 15 feet by 16 feet. There is a winding stair in the northeast corner of the kitchen going from cellar to attic.

Four corner bedrooms occupy the second floor. The rooms are similar in size to those below. All have fire-

places, except the bedroom over the drawing room. There are a servant's bedroom and a sitting room over the service end. The third floor of the main house is arranged in the same fashion as the second. The attic over the service wing has two bedrooms.

The windows are double-hung and set in plank-front frames. The sash are 1 inch thick, the muntins are $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches to the glass. The outside window sills are of wood. The first floor sash are about 2 feet 5 inches wide by 5 feet 9 inches high, with 18 lights, 9 over 9. These windows have wood shutters with three panels and raised moulds on one side and flush boards on the obverse. The second floor windows are about 2 feet 5 inches wide and 4 feet 10 inches high, made of 15 lights, 6 over 9. They have no shutters.

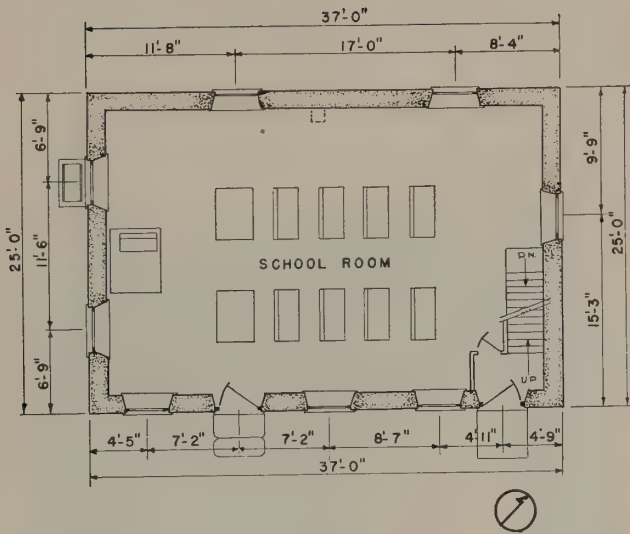
The entrance door is made of six panels, with raised moulds on the outside and flush boards on the inside. The door is in two parts, like so many in Germantown, the division occurring in the lock rail. The original hardware has been preserved, including the studding of the door itself, two sets of strap hinges, the box lock, the door catch, and the brass knocker. The interior doors are $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick. Some have four panels, others six. The doors are made with raised panels on one side and sunken panels on the other. Most of the original H and L hinges have been preserved, as well as the wrought-iron latches.

Mr. G. Clarence Johnson kindly supplied the data for these notes.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) bark house, part of the old tannery, by Thomas Shoemaker, 1912, courtesy of the Library of Congress; (c) by the Survey, 1952.

THE CONCORD SCHOOL

6313 Germantown Avenue



The Concord School (Colonial, H. I. 122) was built in 1775 by the residents of upper Germantown on part of the property of the Upper Burying Ground. Since the Union School was considered to be too distant to be convenient, this new school was organized to provide an English education for the children of the area.

The school building sits back from the street some 25 feet. There is a wooden pump in the front yard; the schoolyard is in the rear. The schoolhouse is built of stone covered with stucco. It has two stories above the cellar, and an attic in the gable.

The original belfry and bell remain in place. The belfry is constructed of wood with a shingle roof and finial. The eave cornices are boxed with bed moulds and crown members, returning at the gables; the shingled roof is finished with a barge and crown mould.

The plan is a simple rectangle, 25 feet wide and 37 feet long. The schoolroom occupies the entire area of the first floor with the exception of a 2-foot 6-inch, boxed-in stair, which goes from the cellar to the attic. This room has no fireplace. The library is on the second floor and has a small fireplace. A storeroom occupies part of the attic. The ceilings in the schoolroom and library are a little over 8 feet 6 inches high.

There are two entrances on the south side of the school, one directly into the schoolroom, the other giving on the stair vestibule. There is, also, a cellarway on the west. The schoolroom doorway has a plain casing enclosing a four-panelled wood door with raised panels on one side and flush boards on the other. There is a glass transom over it. The sill and the two steps leading to the door are flagstone. The door to the stair vestibule is similar, except that it is in two

parts, the upper part down to the lock rail opening clear of the lower part. These doors are 1¾ inches thick, 2 feet 8 inches wide, and 6 feet 5 inches high. The wrought-iron hardware, straps, bolts, studs, latches, and locks are intact.

The schoolroom is lighted with eight double-hung windows. Six of these have sash 2 feet 6 inches wide by 4 feet 10½ inches high with 15 lights, 6 over 9; the other two have sash that are 3 feet wide by 5 feet 6 inches high with 24 lights, 12 over 12. The sash are 1 inch thick; all have wood panelled shutters. There are nine windows in the second floor with sash 3 feet by 5 feet 6 inches high, again 24 lights, 12 over 12. None of these windows has either shutters or blinds.

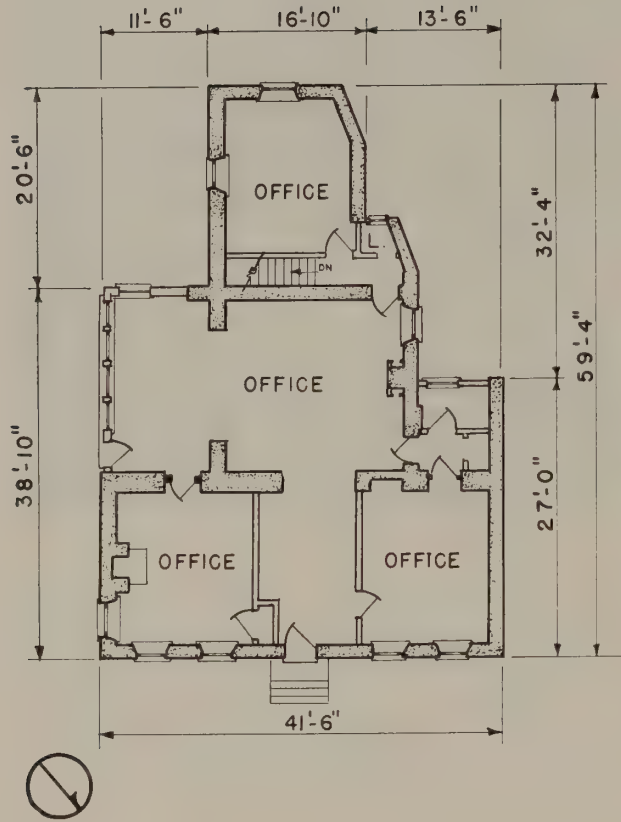
The original schoolroom furniture has been well preserved. In addition to the teacher's desk, which is 2 feet 4¼ inches wide by 2 feet 11¾ inches long, and has a sloping, hinged top and cupboards under it, there are ten pupils' desks of three different types. Two of these are similar with sloping tops measuring from 19 to 20 inches in width and from 46 to 46¾ inches in length. One type has four corner legs; the other has two side supports, spread at the bottom for rigidity. The third type has a flat top, 34¼ by 46¾ inches, with two side supports. The members of the furniture are mortised and tenoned with wooden dowels.

The building is maintained by the Trustees of the Upper Germantown Burying Ground. It is not used as a school and is open to the public.

Earliest known photograph, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society.

THE PETER KEYSER HOUSE

6316 Germantown Avenue



The Peter Keyser House (Colonial, H. I. 123) is on property purchased by Dirk Keyser from Adam Simon Kuhn in 1756. Keyser had his tanyard on the property as did his son Peter, who willed both house and tanyard to his son Peter in 1810.

This is a two story stone building with a third floor in the mansard roof. This roof was a nineteenth-century addition. There is a full cellar under the house. The present building is 41 feet 6 inches wide and 59 feet 4 inches deep. It is possible that the original part of the house is the portion now occupied by the two front offices. In the cellar under the center office, there is a fireplace with an opening 10 feet wide and 4 feet high. In the absence of recorded data, however,

it is not possible to identify definitely the evolution of the building.

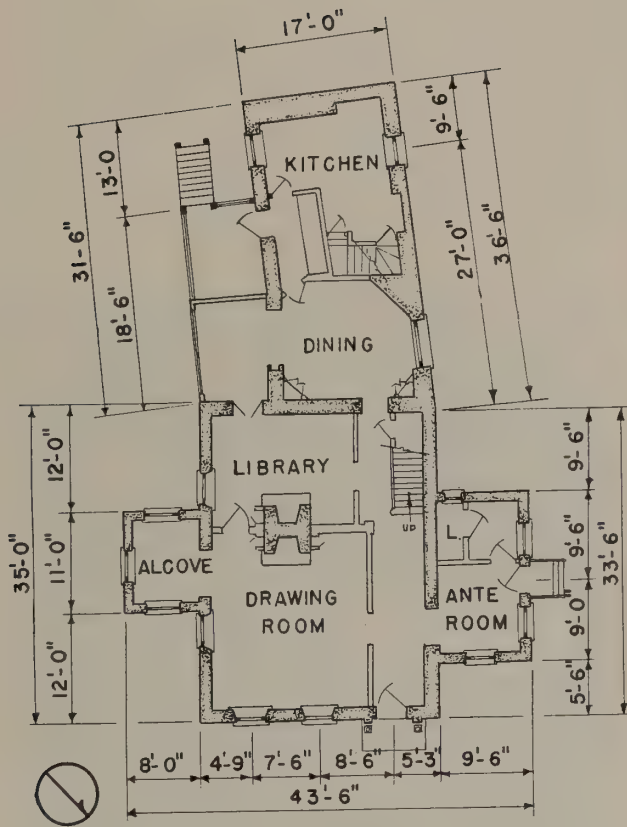
The center hall is 8 feet 2 inches wide. To the right is a room 13 feet 3 inches by 16 feet. To the left, a room 14 feet 2 inches by 16 feet. The room at the end of the hall is 17 feet 6 inches wide by 18 feet 6 inches long. This is a most unusual plan.

The first floor has been made into offices and the upper floors into apartments. The fireplaces are sealed, and aside from the trim around the front door none of the original woodwork remains. Portions of the old tannery buildings were demolished in 1952.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE SPROEGELL HOUSE

6358 Germantown Avenue



The Sproegell House (Colonial, H. I. 128) was built in the early part of the eighteenth century. It is thought to have been owned by John Henry Sproegell about 1710. Anthony Gilbert and William Keyser, a tanner, were later owners of the property.

This two and a half story stone house is covered with stucco and set back a few feet from the building line. The main part of the house measures 26 feet on the street and is 35 feet deep. The rear wing, 17 feet wide and 36 feet 6 inches long, forms a slight angle with the front house and is probably the older part of the building. The gable roof parallels the street. The front part is now covered with asbestos roofing, the rear portion with tin. A simple cornice returns at the gables to receive the plain bargeboards. The dormer, which has a rounded sash and an unusually heavy broken entablature, is late eighteenth century. The two story bays on the east and west gables and the hood over the doorway are late nineteenth century.

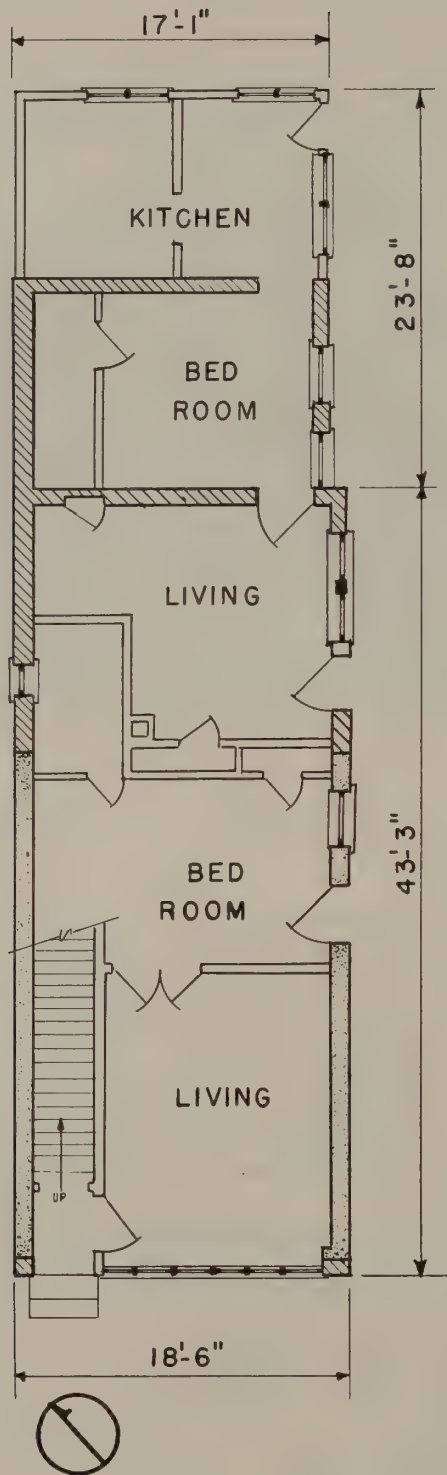
The interior plan is typical of the small house of the period and has a 6-foot hall at one side and two rooms on the other. At the end of the hall there is an unusually fine stair. The front room is 17 feet square. Back of it is the library, 13 by 16 feet. Each room has a fireplace, both using the same chimney. The dining room, 13 by 16 feet, is in the rear wing. The kitchen, at the end of the wing, is irregular in shape, measuring 14 feet in its largest dimension. The kitchen chimney breast in the south wall is 8 feet wide. There is also a small winding stairs in the opposite wall of this room.

The interiors have been altered at various times, but a good deal of fine woodwork remains and is in excellent repair.

Mr. G. Clarence Johnson has kindly made available his survey of this building.

Photograph taken in 1903, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society.

6373 Germantown Avenue North to
Johnson Street

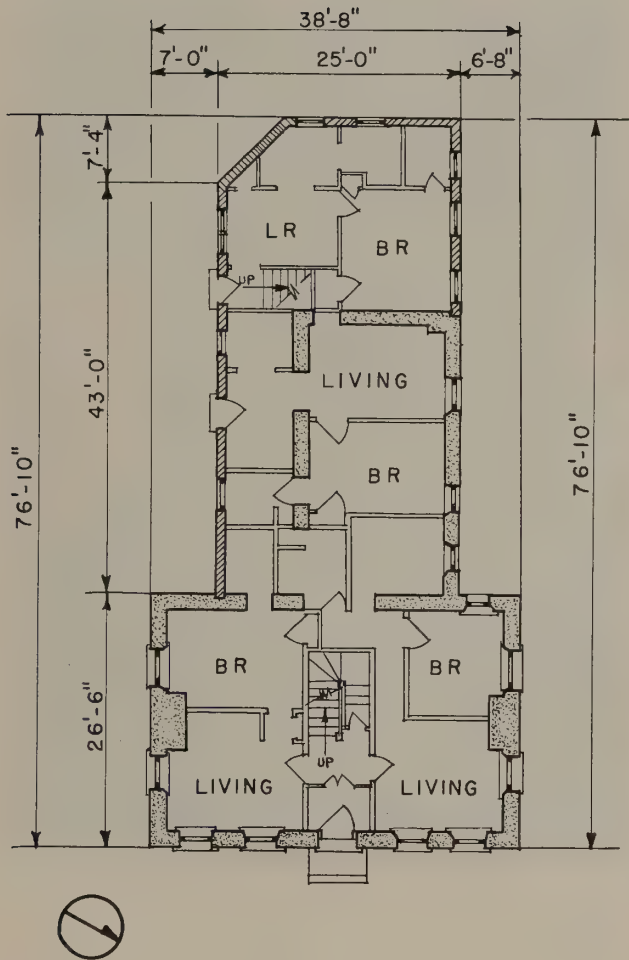


These five houses (Federal, H. I. 129) were built about 1800. They are at present in various stages of disintegration. Nothing remains of the interiors, and the exteriors have been repaired and altered to such an extent that it is impossible to reconstruct their original appearance without a detailed investigation.

The plan is of 6373 Germantown Avenue.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

6374 Germantown Avenue



This house (Federal, H. I. 130) was owned successively by Anthony Gilbert, Jacob Engle, cooper, and John Heilig, clock- and watchmaker. From 1762 on, the deeds to the property regularly mention a two story stone messuage.

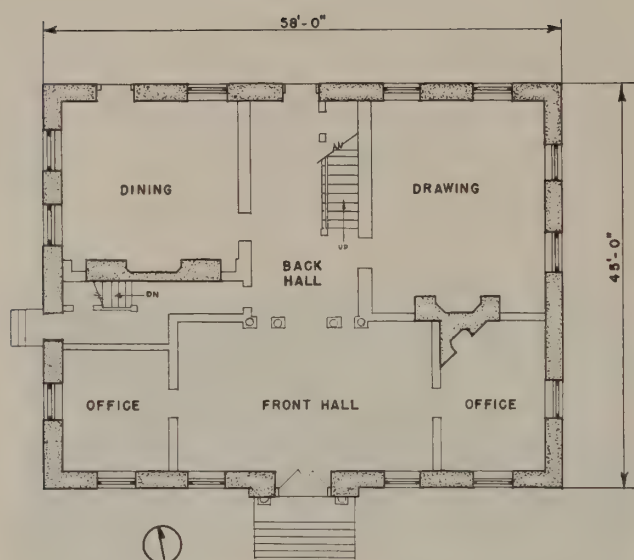
The front of the present two and a half story building is stuccoed. The original building is believed to

be the rectangular front portion, 26 feet by 38 feet. The brick additions to the rear are modern. The building is now used for apartments and the exterior has been altered to a considerable degree. None of the original interior remains.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

CLIVEDEN

6401 Germantown Avenue



a



b

Cliveden (Colonial, H. I. 133) was built by Benjamin Chew in 1763-1764. Chew purchased the land on which he built his house from Edward Pennington for £650 in 1763. Cliveden was the center of a sharp engagement during the Battle of Germantown and was considerably damaged by gunfire. In 1779 Chew sold the house to Blair McClenachan who used it as a country home until 1797, when Chew bought it back. The property has remained in the family ever since.

Cliveden is one of the famous big houses of the Colonial period. The front of this two and a half story house is of dressed stone; the gables are stuccoed at present; the rear is of stone, pointed. The main part of the house, which measures 45 feet by 58 feet, is flanked in the rear with two buildings not shown in

the plan. One served as a kitchen and is connected with the house by a corridor. The other was a laundry. The two story addition to the main building is of a later date.

The house is much more pretentious than any of its local contemporaries. The interiors exemplify the best taste of the day. Georgian precedent and academic conceptions of the use of space dictated the arrangement of the rooms in this house planned for the use of a gentleman of wealth and importance. None of the features characteristic of the simpler Germantown houses are present.

The entrance hall is 28 feet long and 16 feet wide. The entrance door, in the center of the long wall, is flanked by two large windows. Opposite the door is



c



d

the stair hall, 12 feet wide and 24 feet deep. Two Doric columns with a full entablature, the upper part of which forms a cornice around the entire room, separate the two parts of the hall. The doors at either end are arranged symmetrically and have wide moulded trims carrying a cornice and a broken pediment. The panelled wainscoting is chair-rail height. The hall was intended to be impressive and spacious, and indeed it is so. There was, in fact, no other room like it in eighteenth-century Germantown.

To the left of the hall is an office, 12 by 13 feet. To the right, is another office, 12 by 16 feet. The latter has a corner fireplace. The drawing room, 19 feet wide and 24 feet long and lighted by four large windows, is entered through a single door from the stair hall. The panelled fireplace on the right of the en-

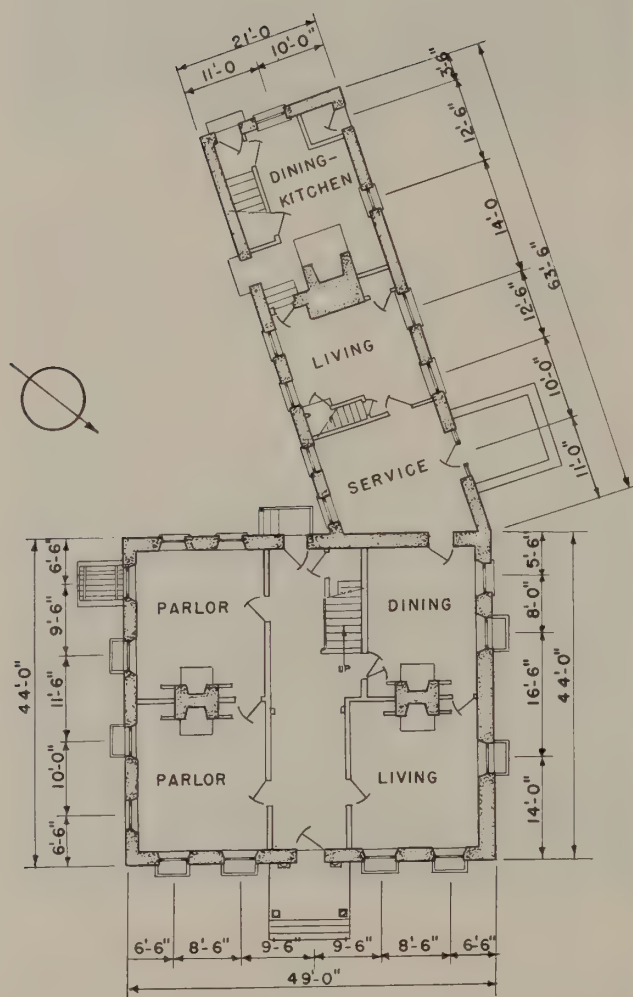
trance door uses the same chimney as the office fireplace. The dining room is in the opposite corner of the house and is 17 feet wide and 19 feet long. It has three windows and a door to the rear wing. The fireplace, with a fire opening 6 feet wide, occupies all of one wall. Cliveden, incidentally, is the only early Germantown house in which a service hall and stairs formed a part of the premeditated plan of the main building.

The extensive grounds are well planted and contain some fine trees. Some of the original marble statuary is still in place. The large barn in the rear contains the family coach.

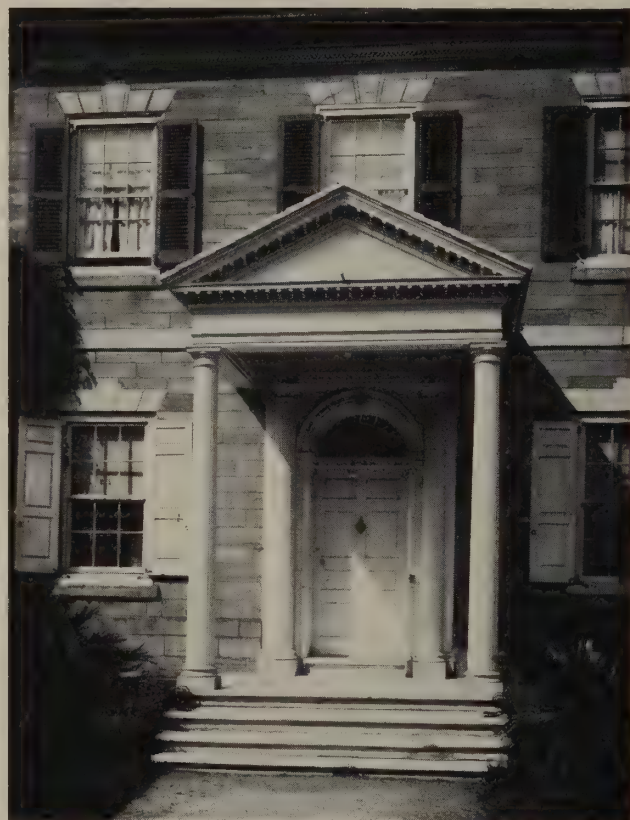
Photographs: (a) exterior and (b) doorway by Horace Lippincott, 1911; (c) hall and (d) stable by Shoemaker and Lippincott, 1911. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

UPSALA

6430 Germantown Avenue



a



b

Upsala (Colonial and Federal, H. I. 134) is one of the finest examples of Federal architecture in Germantown. The land on which it is built was owned by Dirck Jansen prior to 1755, and the original house may date from that period. John Johnson inherited the property in 1797 and built the front part of Upsala,

1798-1801. It is said that Mrs. Johnson was an admirer of Frederika Bremer, the Swedish author, and named the place Upsala in her honor. Except for a brief period in the nineteenth century, Upsala remained in the Johnson family until 1941. The Upsala Foundation purchased it in 1944.



c

The main part of the house, the 1798 addition, sits well back from Germantown Avenue. It is two and a half stories high and is built of stone with brick interior partitions. There is an attic and a cellar. The front is laid with dressed stone, the south and west walls are at present covered with stucco. The rear wing is of rubble masonry. The plan is almost square, 49 feet on the front and 44 feet deep. The rear wing, which includes the early house, is 21 feet wide and 63 feet 6 inches long.

The front is exactly symmetrical. The central arched doorway is at the head of four moulded, marble steps and is protected by a portico with finely fluted Doric columns supporting a cornice and pediment of wood. The architrave is carved. A dentil course and narrow carved modillions carry the fascia and crown. A marble belt course at the second floor level extends the width of the house. The main cornice is elaborately detailed with a denticulation and modillions similar to that of the portico. The windows are double-hung with stone sills and marble voussoirs. The first floor windows have wooden shutters with three raised panels; the second floor windows have two-panelled blinds. The dormers are unusually fine, the sash are arched, flanked by small pilasters supporting a moulded cornice and

pediment. The roof is now covered with a modern clay tile that simulates the original shingles and is fire-proof.

The center hall of the main house is 10 feet wide, leading through a fine arch to the main stairs. On the right of the entrance is the library, 17 feet by 19 feet; on the left, the front parlor, of the same size; and in the rear, reached by a door to the right of the fireplace, is the back parlor, 17 feet by 20 feet. Back of the library or living room, and accessible from it as well as from the hall, is the dining room, 15 feet by 20 feet. Each room has a beautiful fireplace in the transverse wall. The walls are plastered, with plaster cornices, and wood wainscoting. The old part of the house has three rooms, two of them with fireplaces. One is ten feet wide, the other eight feet wide. These rooms are now part of the caretaker's quarters. Their original use is not definitely known.

The second floor of the main house has four corner bedrooms of the same size as the rooms below. Each has a fireplace. The third floor bedrooms are similar in arrangement and size. The attic is open storage space.

The first and second floors have about 11-foot 3-inch ceiling heights. The interiors, with the exceptions noted, are original and are in an excellent state of preservation. The fireplaces have Pennsylvania marble facings surrounded by pilasters and mantles of great delicacy of detail. The wainscots are panelled and the chair rail moulded and carved.

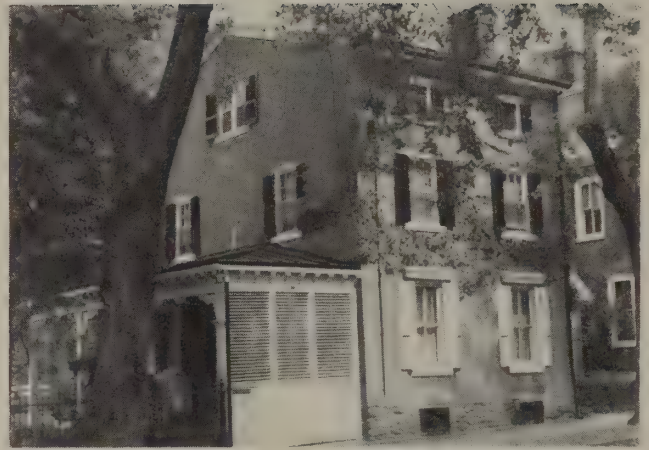
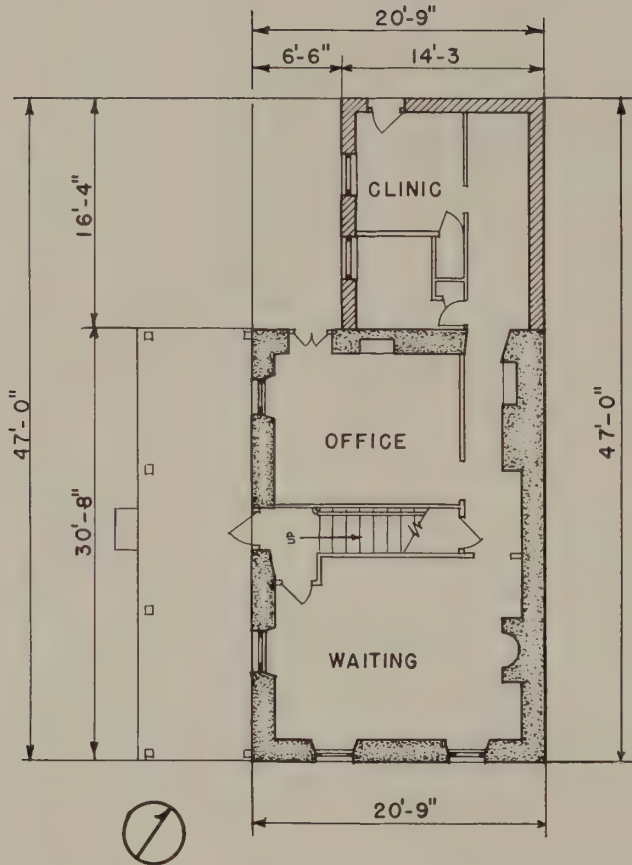
The roof and dormers which had been destroyed or damaged by fire in 1942 have been restored by the Upsala Foundation which maintains the house. The old conservatory was removed, the rear interiors renovated, and portions of the interior of the main house, including parts of the main stairs, have also been restored.

Upsala is open to visitors on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

Mr. G. Clarence Johnson, architect for the Upsala Foundation, supplied the data for these notes.

Photographs by Horace Lippincott, 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress.

23 West Walnut Lane



This house (Colonial, H. I. 135) is reported to have been one of the outbuildings of Wyck. It is a three story house, of stone, stuccoed, 20 feet 9 inches wide and 30 feet 8 inches deep, not including the modern brick addition. Probably this was originally a two story tenant house to which a third floor was added later, most likely early in the nineteenth century. The

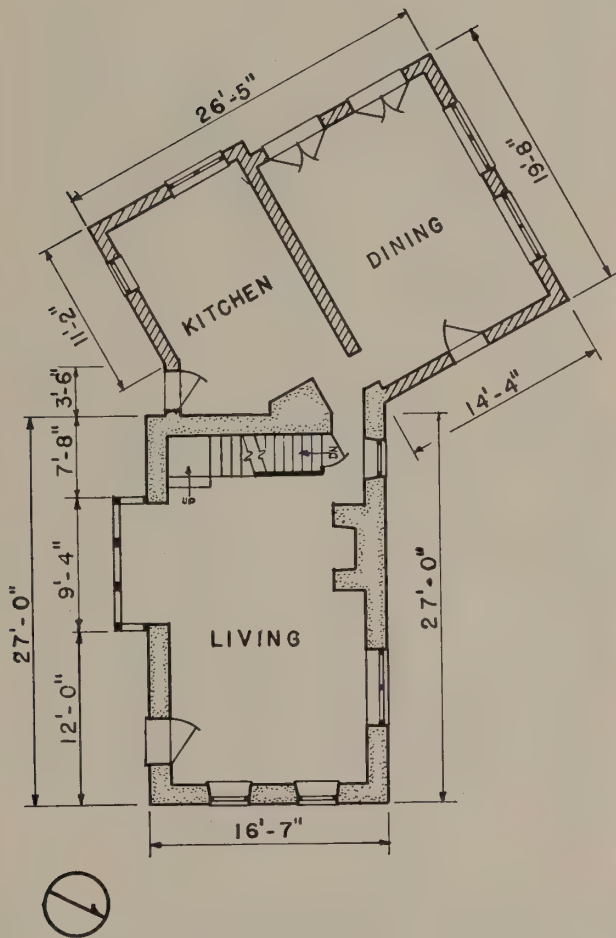
cornice is late nineteenth century. In its present condition it is typical of many of the smaller Germantown houses built toward the middle of that century.

The first floor has been remodeled for a doctor's office and the upper floors are now divided into apartments.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE BARDSLEY HOUSE

6500 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Bardsley House (Colonial, H. I. 136), a small picturesque house, was occupied in the 1870's by John Bardsley who is credited with having introduced the English sparrow into Germantown. The sparrows were imported to destroy the caterpillars which were then infesting the town's trees.

The house is of stone, stuccoed. It is two and a half stories high and has a full cellar. The original house, clearly visible on the plan, was one room deep, 16 feet 7 inches by 27 feet. The stone wall and bay window on the southeast are later additions. The brick additions on the rear are also late. It is pos-

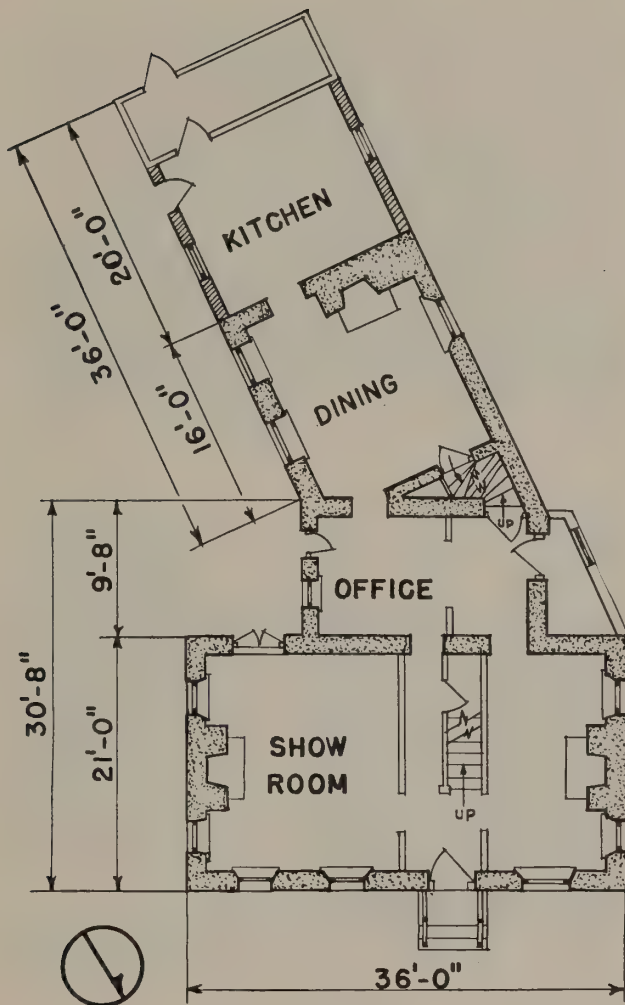
sible, however, that these additions are on the foundations of an early building. It should be noted that the rear buildings of 6504 and 6500 Germantown Avenue are almost parallel to each other and to the lines of the original land grants, instead of being normal to the Avenue. The pent eave originally was on the street front only. The dormers are late nineteenth century.

The interior of the old portion of the house has not been much altered. The flooring on the second and third floors seems to be original, so do the door to the cellar, and the fireplaces. Hardly any of the ironwork remains.

Photographs: (a) early view, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE DANIEL BILLMEYER HOUSE

6504 Germantown Avenue



The Daniel Billmeyer House (Colonial and Federal, H. I. 137) was purchased by Michael Billmeyer in 1793. Daniel Billmeyer inherited the property from his father in 1831, and it remained in the Billmeyer family until 1913.

This two and a half story house is a fine example of the domestic architecture of Germantown during the Federal Era. The street front is of dressed stone; the rear wing is stuccoed. The Federal addition on the street is 36 feet wide and 21 feet deep. The rear wing, 17 feet wide and about 16 feet long, is probably the earlier building. It is at an angle to the front and is joined to it by a 10-foot connection. Both the main house and the wing have cellars, but there is none under the connecting portion. The brick kitchen wing and the wood shed in the rear are late additions.

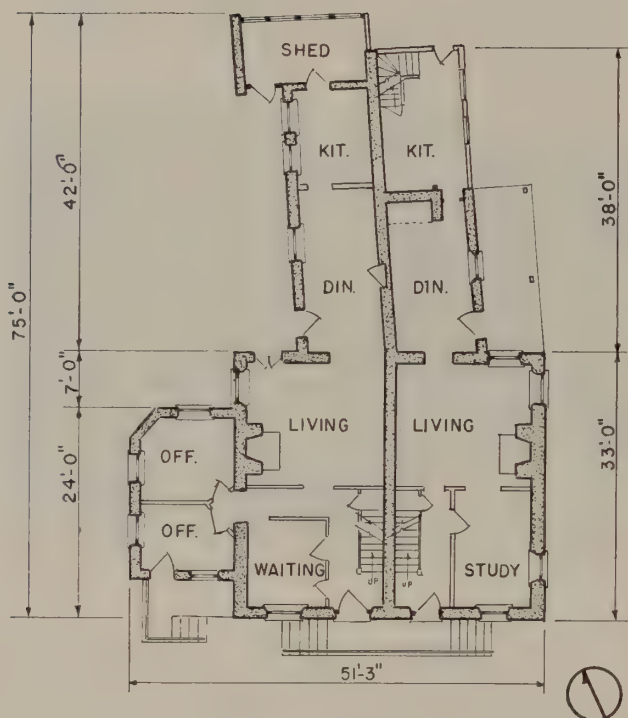
The stair hall is 6 feet 6 inches wide. To the left is a room about 18 feet by 15 feet 6 inches, with a fine fireplace in the gable wall. The room to the right is 18 feet by about 10 feet and it also has a good fireplace in the gable wall. The dining room, which occupies part of the older building, is 13 feet 7 inches wide and 15 feet long. The fireplace is off the center of the room in the south gable of this wing.

The stairs from the first to the second floor seem to be original and many of the details of the front portion have great charm. The cornice and dormers are particularly noteworthy.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE MICHAEL BILLMEYER HOUSE

6505-6507 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Michael Billmeyer House (Colonial, H. I. 138) is in reality two houses with similar plans under one roof. The property was acquired by Hans George Bensell in 1727 and was sold for his heirs to Michael Billmeyer, printer, in 1789. Tradition has it that during the Battle of Germantown the attack against the Chew house was directed from the steps in front of this house.

These two and a half story houses have street façades of finely dressed stone. The sides are of rough stone. The two houses, without the modern office addition to the northwest, measure 39 feet 3 inches in width. The front portion is 33 feet deep; the total depth of the buildings, including the rear wing, is 75 feet. The exterior wood details of the house are in the best tradition of Germantown.

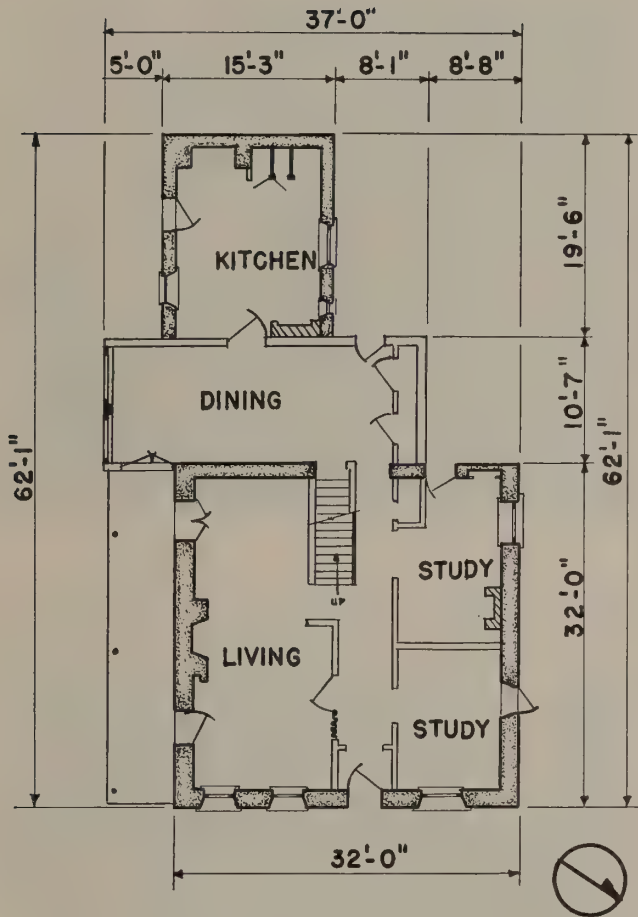
The plan is unusual. The stair hall at one side leads into the living room, which is about 17 feet by 16 feet and has a fireplace in the gable wall. The front corner room is 9 feet by 14 feet. The dining rooms are each about 10 feet by 19 feet. The one to the east has a fireplace, with an opening 6 feet 2 inches wide and 3 feet 5 inches deep. This has a brick hearth and the original crane and other utensils. The other dining room has no fireplace.

Much of the interior detail has been preserved, including the flooring in the living and dining rooms and that on the upper floors, the original hardware and some fine fireplaces.

Photographs: (a) taken in the 1850's, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE CHRISTOPHER MASON HOUSE

6514 Germantown Avenue



The Christopher Mason House (Colonial and Federal, H. I. 139) is on land acquired by Mason in 1797 and it is probable that he built the main part of the house shortly thereafter. The date 1798 is inscribed in the chimney.

The front of the fine two and a half story house is of well-dressed stone. The gable ends and the rear walls are pointed. There is a partial cellar. The first floor front windows are protected by a Germantown hood or pent eave. The main building is 32 feet wide and 32 feet deep. It is separated from the kitchen by the dining room, built about 1880, which is 10 feet 7 inches wide by 26 feet long. The kitchen wing, about 15 feet by 20 feet, is the earliest part of the house and it was probably built about 1765, the date inscribed in the chimney.

The stair hall is not centered on the building. The living room, to the left, is 13 feet 6 inches wide and about 29 feet deep, with a 2-foot jog on one side to accommodate the stairs. To the right of the hall, on the street front, is a study, about 10 by 13 feet. Back of it is a similar room, 10 feet by 15 feet 4 inches, with a fireplace in the gable wall.

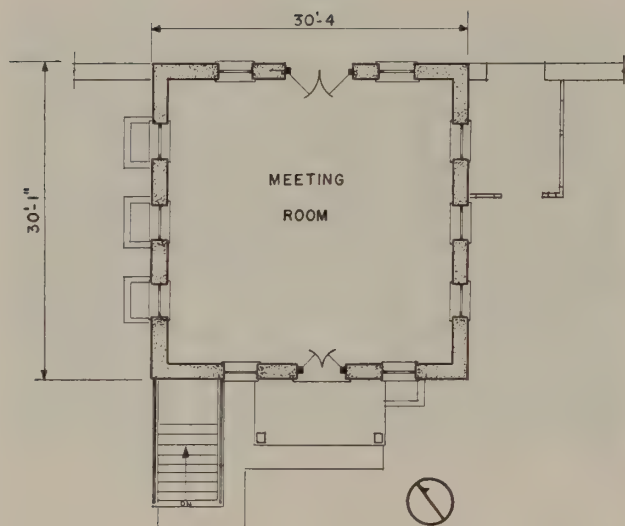
Most of the interior doors, the stairs to the second floor, and the flooring throughout the house are thought to be original.

The architectural notes are from data supplied by Mr. G. Clarence Johnson.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

6613 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Church of the Brethren (Colonial, H. I. 142) was built about 1770. The Germantown congregation of the "Religious Society of German and English Baptist, formerly called Dutch Baptist, commonly called Dunkers" was the first of the sect to be organized in Pennsylvania and it exerted a considerable influence over the other churches of this faith in Pennsylvania. Among the trustees in 1760 were Alexander Mack, stocking weaver, Christopher Sower, II, printer, Peter Leibert and George Schriber, bookbinders. Incidentally, when the property was transferred to another set of trustees (in 1784), mention was made of "the new meeting house thereon erected."

The one story stone building is substantially square,

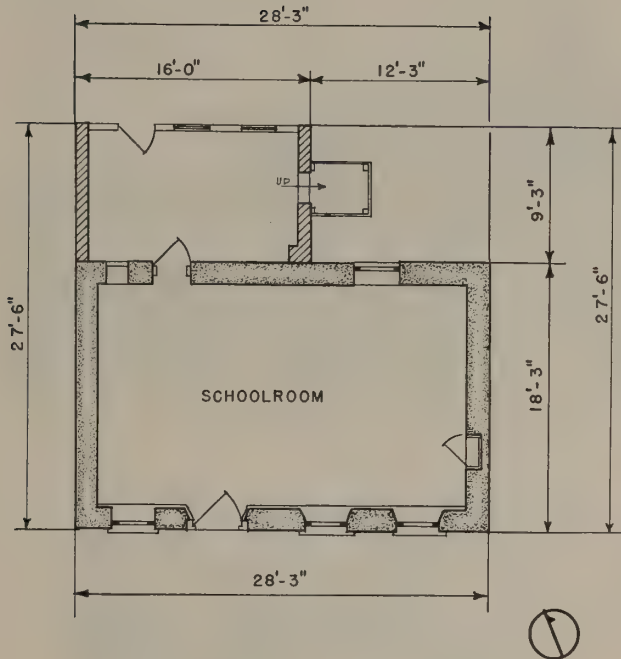
30 feet on a side. It has a full cellar. The gable end is toward the street. The entrance door is on the center and is flanked by two windows. Each side wall has three double-hung windows. When the rear addition was built in 1897 some changes were made in the original building. The square windows in the gable end were removed at that time and the present round-headed windows substituted.

Almost all of the original interior woodwork and iron work have disappeared. Some of the original joists and sub-flooring are extant, however. A fireplace in the cellar has been sealed.

Photographs: (a) taken about 1860, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE SCHOOL

6669 Germantown Avenue



The School (Colonial, H. I. 144) is part of St. Michael's Lutheran Church property. This one story stone schoolhouse was built about 1740 and restored in 1915.

The main building is 28 feet 3 inches long and 18 feet 3 inches wide. The brick wing to the rear is modern. The cornice of the stone building is a simple box, projecting 2 feet 1 inch. The gables have plain barge boards abutting the return of the cornice.

The entrance door is 3 feet by 6 feet 3 inches and has a plain glass transome. The inside jambs and the openings on the street are splayed. The windows are double-hung, with plank-front frames. The sash on

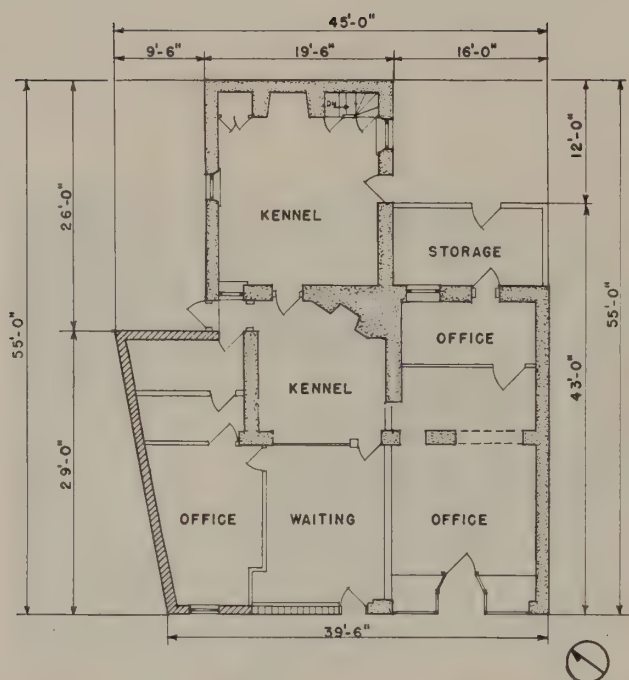
the street vary in size. Two are 2 feet 4 inches wide by 5 feet 3 inches high, 3 lights wide, 15 lights in all, 6 over 9. One is 2 feet 11 inches by 5 feet, and has 15 lights.

The ceiling of the schoolroom is 15 feet 6 inches to its intersection with the roof. Near the center of the room there are two transverse joists, boxed-in, 7 by 9 inches. These are 8 feet 2 inches from the floor and 5 feet 4 inches apart. Some of the early flooring remains. Otherwise little of the original interior woodwork is extant.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE PAUL HOUSE

6843 Germantown Avenue



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c

The Paul House (Colonial, H. I. 151) was purchased by Henry Paul, saddler, in 1813. It remained in the Paul family until 1915.

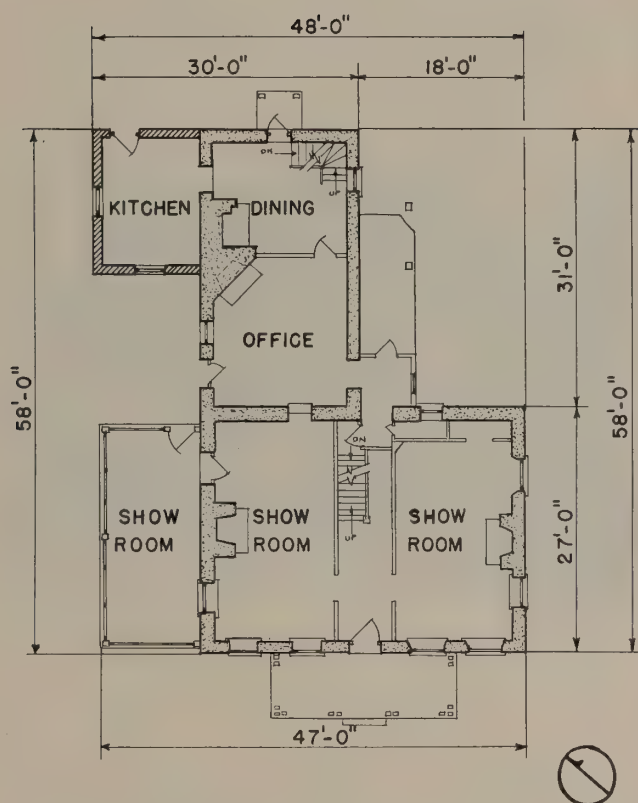
The original part of this two story stone house is thought to be the rear portion, marked kennel on the plan, which forms the leg of the L. This part, 19 feet 6 inches wide and about 22 feet deep, stood about 17 feet back from the street line. The front of the house,

32 feet long by 16 feet deep, was added later. In recent years the older parts of the house have been incorporated into the present construction which extends to the front building line. The interiors have been entirely destroyed.

Photographs: (a) by John Bullock about 1900, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) front. (c) rear, by the Survey, 1952.

THE GORGAS HOUSE

6901 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Gorgas House (Federal, H. I. 154) was built by Joseph Gorgas on land he acquired from Anthony Johnson in 1798. It remained in the Gorgas family until 1851 when it was sold to George Ashmead, druggist.

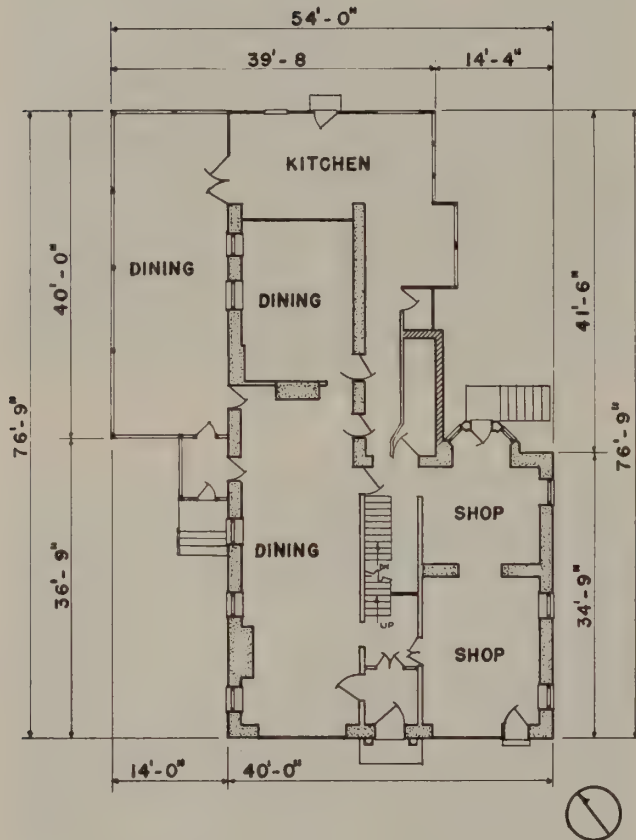
The street front of this two and a half story house is of dressed stone; the gable ends are pointed. Unfortunately, the stone has been painted in recent years. The front part of the house is 37 feet long and 27 feet deep. The rear wing is 18 feet by 31 feet. The older part of the house is probably the stone part, now occupied by the dining room and office, in the rear of the building. The cellar under this part has a brick floor. The brick kitchen extension, outside showroom, and the front porch are late additions.

The first floor plan is typical of the Germantown houses of the period. There is a center hall, 6 feet wide, with rooms on either side, 13 feet wide by 24 feet 4 inches long. Each of these has a fireplace in the gable wall.

Some interior alterations have been made, principally in the showroom to the left of the main entrance. The front door, the stairway to the second floor, the wood panelling and the flooring throughout the house seem to be original. There is a Franklin stove in the right front room.

Photographs: (a) taken about 1900, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

7127 Germantown Avenue



This house (N.D., H. I. 156), now the Mount Pleasant Inn, stands on land owned in 1718 by Henry Sellen, oil miller. William Allen bought the land in 1778, and after its sale in 1797 by Andrew Allen, Jr., the property had many owners, most of whom were small businessmen or tradesmen.

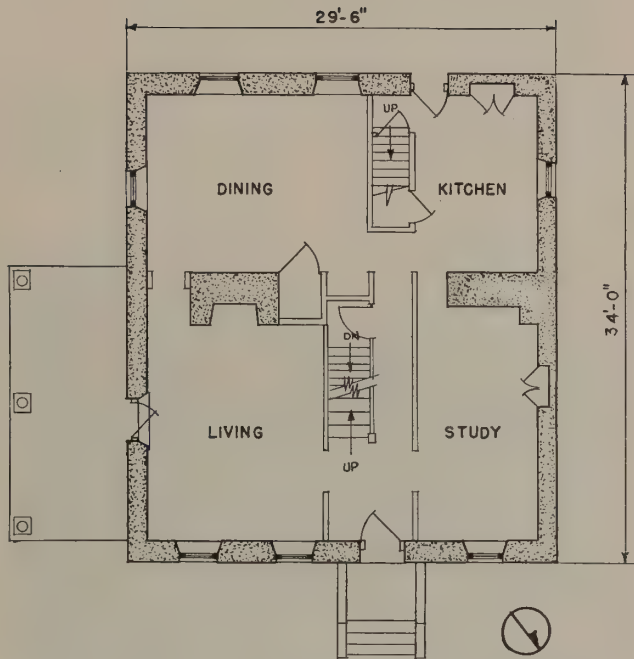
The three story stone house is 40 feet wide and 76 feet 9 inches deep. It has a full cellar. At present the

third story is contained in the mansard roof but this was a late nineteenth-century addition. Successive alterations have materially changed both the exterior and the interior of the house.

The barn in the rear is now used as a plumber's office and shop.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

7142 Germantown Avenue



This property (Federal, H. I. 158), which stands on land purchased by Sebastian Unruh in 1781, remained in the Unruh and Hergesheimer families until 1843.

The two and a half story stone house, at present stuccoed, has a half cellar. The building measures 29 feet 6 inches along Germantown Avenue and is 34 feet deep. The older part of the house is probably that occupied by the living room and study. The rear part has no cellar and is a later addition. The porch was added in the nineteenth century. (Steps from the cellar to the outside formerly came up at the point where the porch now is.)

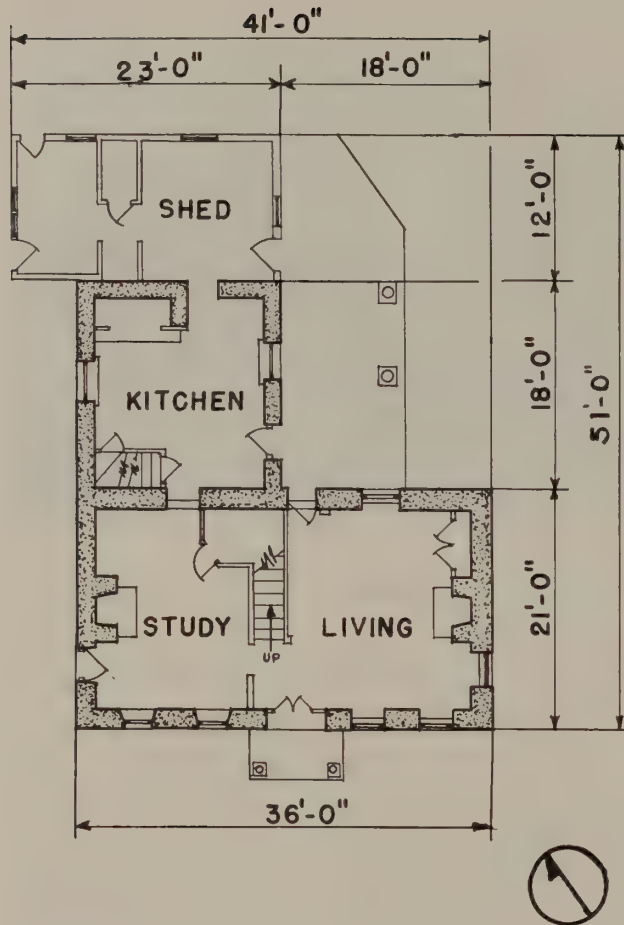
The stair hall is 5 feet 9 inches wide. To the right

of the hall is a study, 8 by 16 feet. To the left there is a living room, 12 by 14 feet 9 inches. This room has a fireplace. A door to the left of the fireplace leads to the dining room which measures 12 by 15 feet. The kitchen is 8 feet by 12 feet and opens onto a boxed-in stair and to the front hall.

Some of the doors and the flooring on the second and third floors are probably original. Hardly any of the original ironwork remains, however. Closets have been added around the fireplace in the living room; and the fireplaces have been sealed.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

7413 Germantown Avenue



This (Federal, H. I. 168) is a three story stone house with a half cellar. It is probable that the kitchen wing, 17 feet 6 inches by 20 feet, constitutes the original house. To this part, the three story front building, 36 feet wide and 21 feet deep, was added about the end of the eighteenth century. The porch and sheds are late nineteenth-century additions.

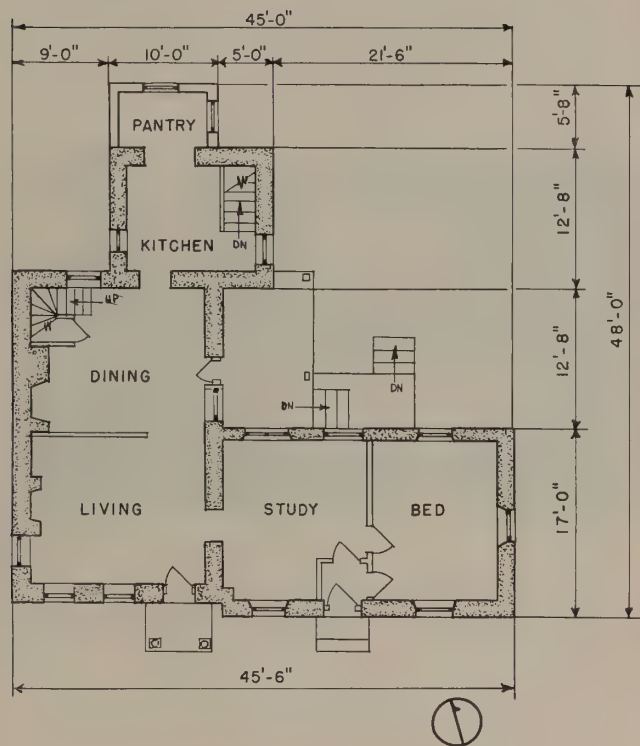
The house formerly had a center hall but the parti-

tion to the right has been removed to enlarge the living room. This room is now 16 feet 9 inches wide and 18 feet 8 inches to the west partition. The study is 12 feet by 17 feet. Each of these rooms has a fireplace. The fireplace in the north gable wall of the kitchen is about 6 feet wide and 2 feet 9 inches deep. It has been carefully restored and is very interesting in detail.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE MELCHIOR NEWMAN HOUSE

7921 Germantown Avenue



a



b

The Melchior Newman House (Federal, H. I. 174) stands on property which Newman's wife, Anna Bella Miller Newman, inherited from her father, Wigard Miller. The barn carries a date stone on the gable end with the inscription "AMN 1812."

This two and a half story house is typical of the smaller houses of Germantown. Built of stone, well laid on the gable ends, and stuccoed on the front, the house is 19 feet 3 inches wide and 31 feet deep. It has a full cellar. There is a transverse stone wall in the cellar under the partition between the living and dining rooms and it is probable that the dining room corner is part of an early house that was enlarged during the building boom of the Federal Era. The kitchen wing, 13 by 15 feet, and the east wing are later additions. The porch on the northeast side and the pantry were added by the present owner.

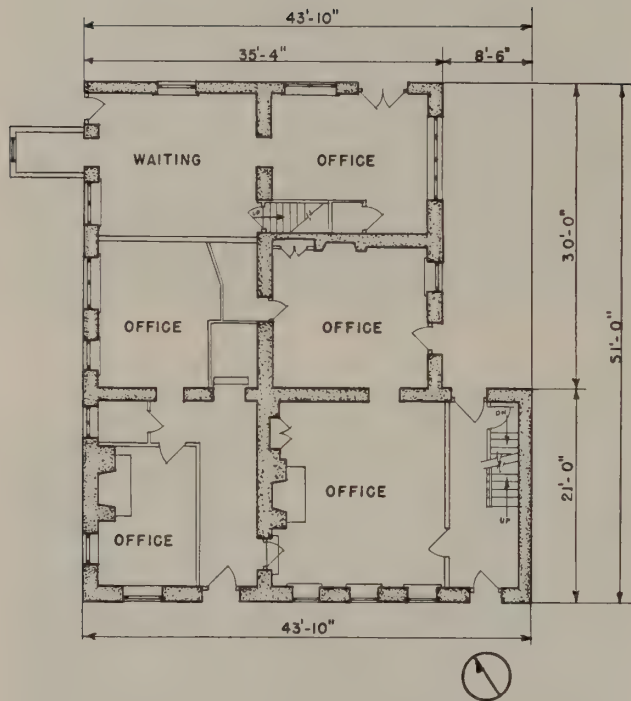
The living and dining rooms are each 13 feet 4 inches by 14 feet 8 inches to the chimney breasts. Each has a fireplace. To the right of the chimney in the dining room a winding stair runs from the first to the third floor. Formerly it went down to the cellar also, but this part is now sealed off and used as closet space. The stair is thought to be original and is one of the few in Germantown which remain intact.

The barn to the rear of the property has been converted into a residence. The small building to the northeast of the main house was probably a spring house.

Photographs: (a) by Thomas Shoemaker, 1911, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

ABRAHAM REX'S STORE

8031 Germantown Avenue



Abraham Rex's Store (Colonial, H. I. 179) was the principal shop in Chestnut Hill during the latter part of the eighteenth century. The property continued in the possession of the Rex family until the 1850's.

The building as it stands today is two and a half stories high, constructed of good local stone. It has a partial cellar. The house, 43 feet 10 inches wide and 51 feet deep, is an unusual combination of several structures, each with an individual fenestration. The front of the house to the left, an area of about 20 feet square, is probably the original building. The rear wings are late additions. The cornice on the street front, the exterior doors and windows, and the dormer windows are particularly fine. The east pent eave, with a projecting stone course serving as a protection against water,

is unusual. The east gable has a date stone inscribed with the date 1762.

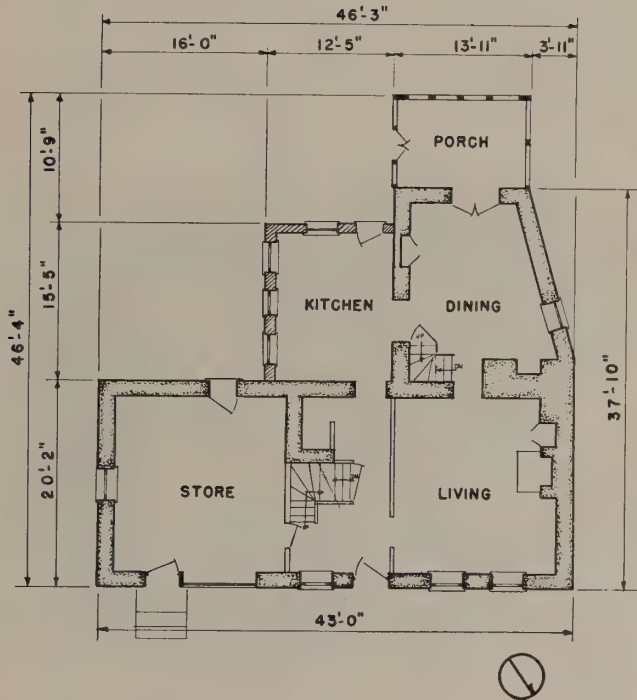
The stair hall is 6 feet 7 inches wide. The room to the left of the hall is 18 feet 2 inches by 17 feet and has a fireplace in the west wall. This room communicates through a single door on the left of the fireplace with a corner room on the west. This room, 16 feet by 18 feet, with a fireplace in its gable wall, is thought to be part of the earliest building. Each of the four rooms on the rear is about 14 feet square. Only one has a fireplace.

Some of the wrought-iron hinges and locks, the brass locks, the doors, and the wood panelling seem to be original.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE PETERS HOUSE

8132-8134 Germantown Avenue



The Peters House (Federal, H. I. 183) stands on property owned by Henry Schleydorn, sugar baker, in 1753. For the next hundred years it was in the tenure of men who were listed variously as victuallers or butchers. In 1949 the Stagecrafters, Inc., purchased it.

This is, in fact, two adjoining, small two and a half story stone houses. The street front is stuccoed. The exposed gable end is of good stone, pointed. The house is 43 feet wide and 20 feet 2 inches deep with a stone wing of irregular contour about 17 feet by 17 feet 6 inches. This addition and the porch are newer than the rest of the house. Subsequent alterations make it impossible to determine the extent of the original building but it is evident that some of the house antedates the Federal era. The casual locations of the fireplaces, for example, indicate Colonial construction.

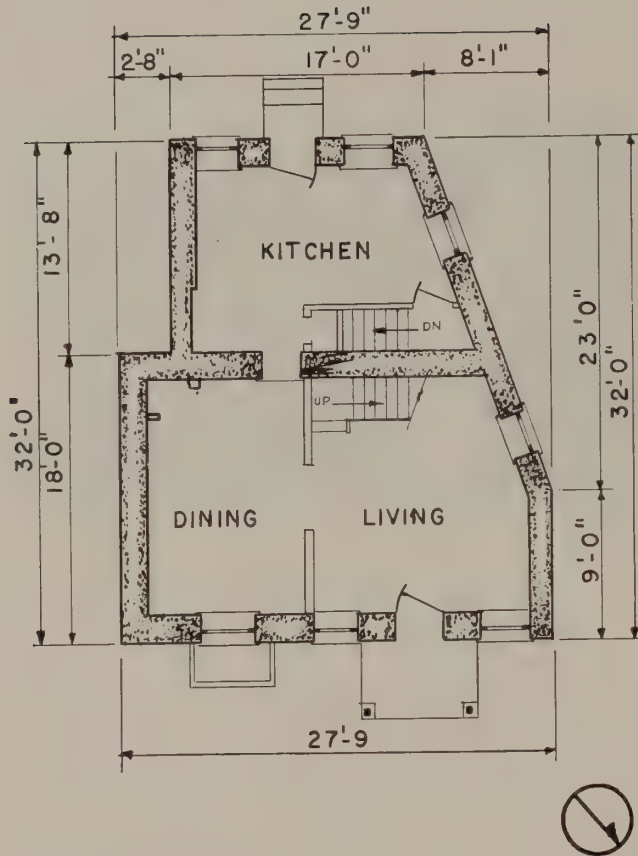
The entrance door opens into a stair hall, now 10 feet wide and 17 feet deep. The boxed-in winding stair is at the left and, beyond this, the remains of an old fireplace, 7 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The living room, to the right of the hall, is 16 feet wide and 17 feet long. It has a small fireplace, apparently a late addition, in the gable wall. This room and the stair hall are probably in the early part of the house. The dining room occupies an entire wing and has a fireplace in the north wall. The brick kitchen is a modern addition.

The flooring throughout the building, the wainscoting in the living and dining rooms, and the wood wall panels in the dining room are largely early work.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE DETWILER HOUSE

8220 Germantown Avenue



The Detwiler House (Colonial, H. I. 187) was built by Jacob Swank and became the property of Frederick Detwiler in 1760.

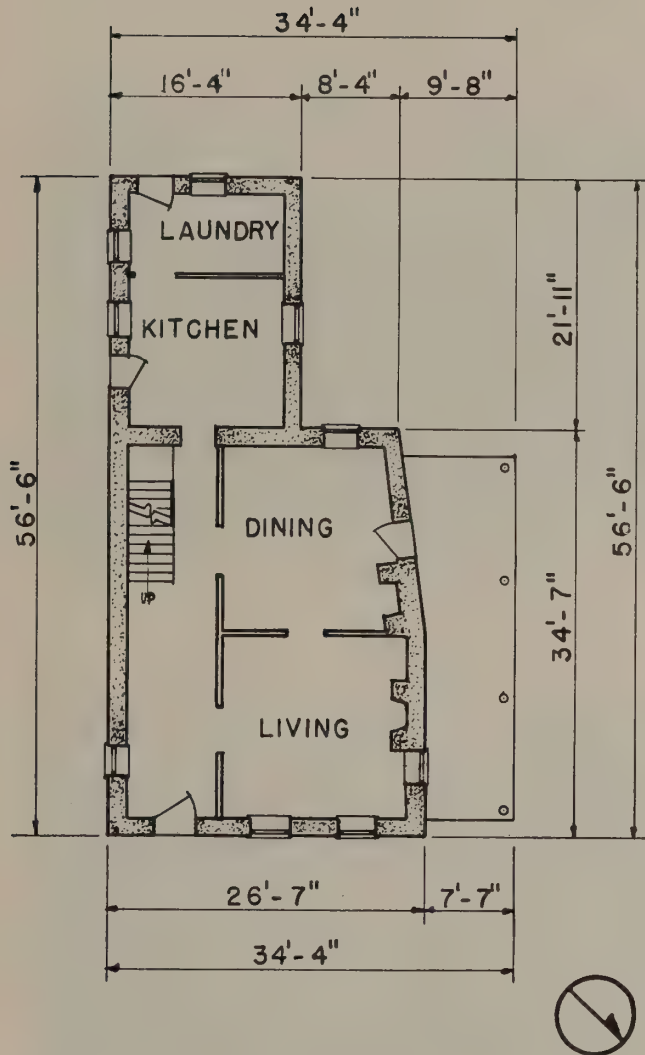
This very simple, small two story house is of stone covered with stucco. It is 27 feet 9 inches wide and 32 feet deep, including the kitchen wing, and has a full cellar. Most probably the original house was the part

which now comprises the living and dining rooms. The early interior work has been almost completely removed. Foundations for the fireplaces still exist in the cellar but the fireplaces themselves are gone.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE DETWILER HOUSE

8226 Germantown Avenue



The Detwiler House (Colonial, H. I. 190) has never been out of the possession of the family since John Detwiler purchased the property in 1796-1797.

This is a two and a half story stone house with a full cellar. The house is 26 feet 7 inches wide and 34 feet 7 inches deep with a kitchen wing, 16 feet 4 inches by 22 feet. This is a later addition. The "summer beam," 5 inches by 9 inches, is original. The muntins have been removed from the sash on the first and second floors; otherwise the exterior is complete.

In plan, the house is similar to many of the early Germantown houses. The entrance hall, at one side of the house, is 7 feet 6 inches wide. The stairs are

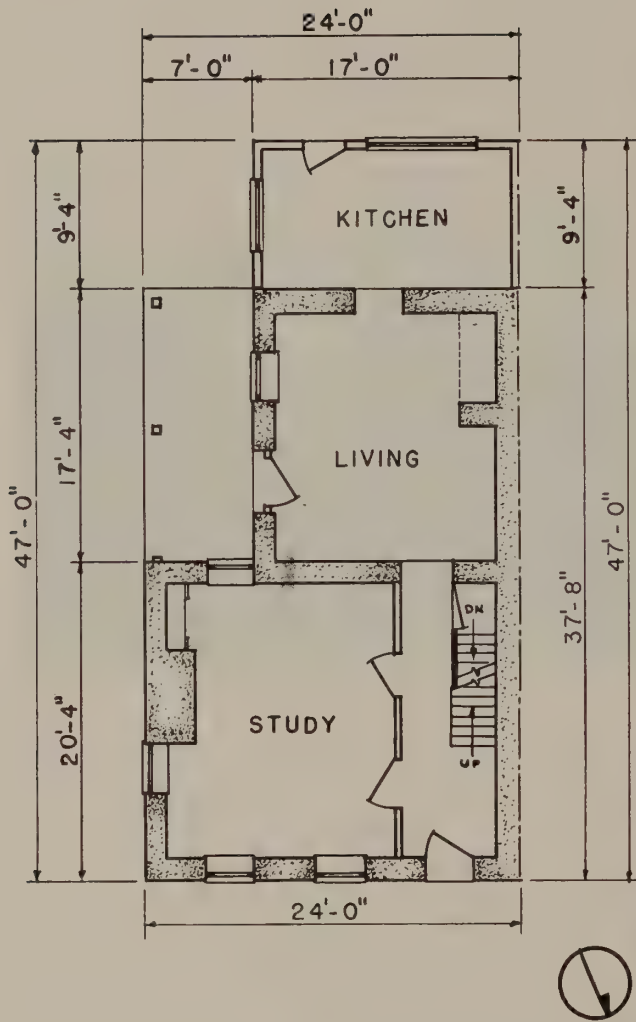
at the rear. The living room on the right is 15 feet square. It has a fine fireplace in the gable wall. The dining room is in the rear. It is 15 feet 2 inches long and about 14 feet wide, and has an interesting fireplace in the side wall. There is a small door to the outside to the left of this fireplace. The plan of the second floor is similar.

The wood panelling of the living room, the fireplaces, the hardware, and the flooring, except for the first floor flooring, are original.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE KERPER HOUSE

8314 Germantown Avenue



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The Kerper House (Federal, H. I. 191 A), at 8314 Germantown Avenue, was owned, as was 8316 (191 B), by George and Jacob Kerper.

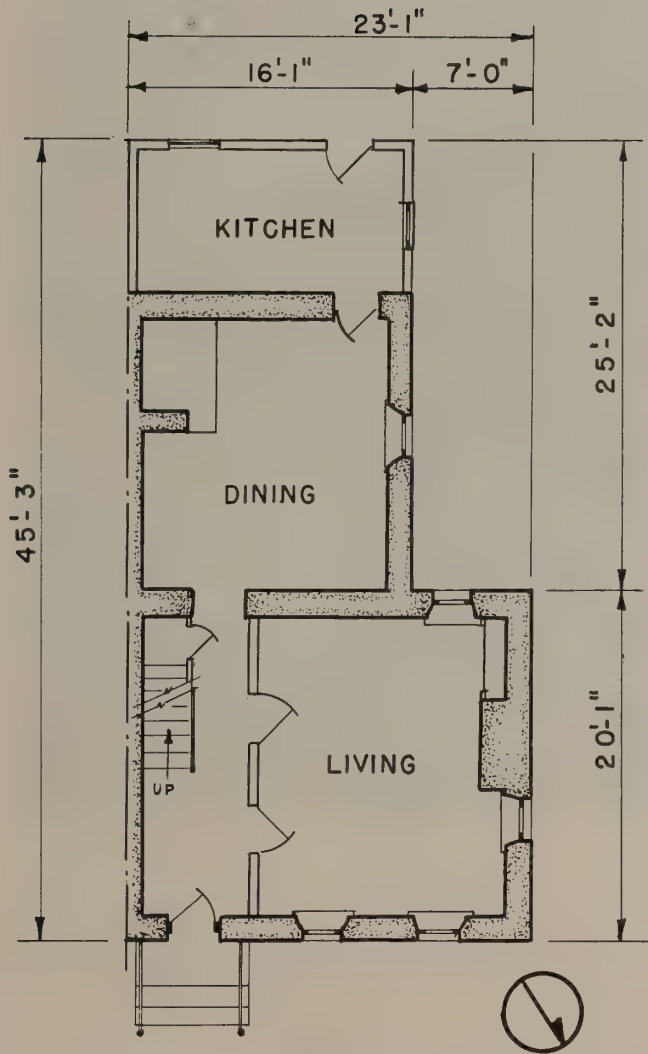
It is a very simple two story stone house, now covered with stucco, of which the rear wing, not including the kitchen and porch, may have been an early building

which was incorporated into the Federal house. The fireplaces are sealed and practically no early interior woodwork remains.

Photographs: (a) by Thomas Shoemaker, 1911, showing 8314 on left and 8316 Germantown Avenue, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE KERPER HOUSE

8316 Germantown Avenue



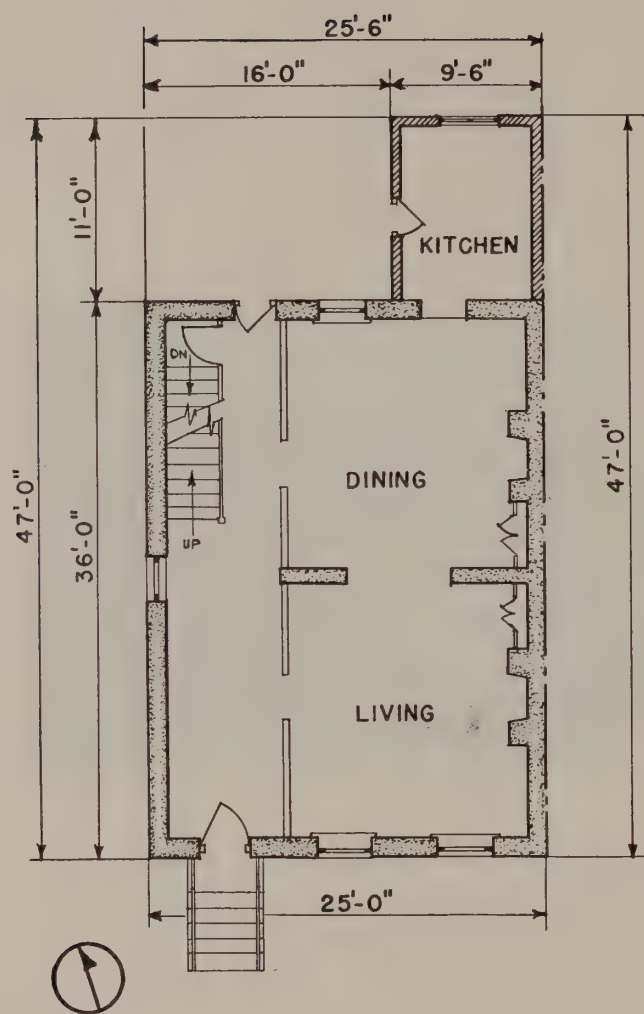
The Kerper House (Federal, H. I. 191 B), at 8316 Germantown Avenue, has a dressed stone façade and rough stone sides. It is a three story house with a half cellar. The house is 23 feet 1 inch wide and 36 feet deep to the frame kitchen. The rear wing, not including the kitchen portion which is a later addition, may be the original part of the house.

The stair hall is 6 feet wide. The living room is 17 feet by 21 feet, with a fireplace, now sealed, in the gable. The dining room is 14 feet wide and 15 feet 8 inches long. The fireplace in the gable wall of this room has an opening 5 feet 4 inches wide. Practically none of the interior woodwork remains in any part of the house.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE WIGARD JACOBY HOUSE

8327 Germantown Avenue



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The Wigard Jacoby House (Federal, H. I. 194) was purchased by Jacoby in 1794. The property continued in the possession of this family until 1905.

The house is a two and a half story one of stone and has a slate roof. It is 25 feet wide and 36 feet deep, not including the brick kitchen wing. In style it is typical of Germantown architecture. The stone on the front of the house is dressed, while the other walls are of rubble stone. There is a stone partition 12 inches thick across the middle of the house from the cellar through the second floor. Wooden construction is also sturdy and is in good condition for its 160 years. Joists in the cellar are of white oak and are joined to cross beams by pegged mortise and tenon.

The stair hall is 7 feet 3 inches wide. The stairs are at the far end. On the right, the front room measures 15 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 5 inches. It has a fireplace in the east wall. The rear room is 15 feet 9 inches by 16 feet. It, too, has a fireplace in the east wall.

The outstanding feature of this house is its woodwork, both inside and out. The front doorway and cornice are elaborately carved. (The pediment of the doorway has been restored.) There is carved wood trim on the middle dormer window and the barge boards have a twisted rope trim.

The interior woodwork is consistent with that outside and employs variations of the same classically inspired scale and decoration. All windows and door



b

mouldings on the first floor have dog ears. The doors are six-panel ones and the window openings are similarly panelled. In the first floor hall the chair rail is carved. The hallway is broken just before the staircase by a cornice. The staircase has delicately turned balusters. A sawed-out scroll design decorates the ends of the steps. (This design and that of the mantels are similar to those in Upsala. Perhaps Wigard Jacoby,

who was a carpenter, worked there.) There are double-door cupboards in the fireplace wall of four of the rooms.

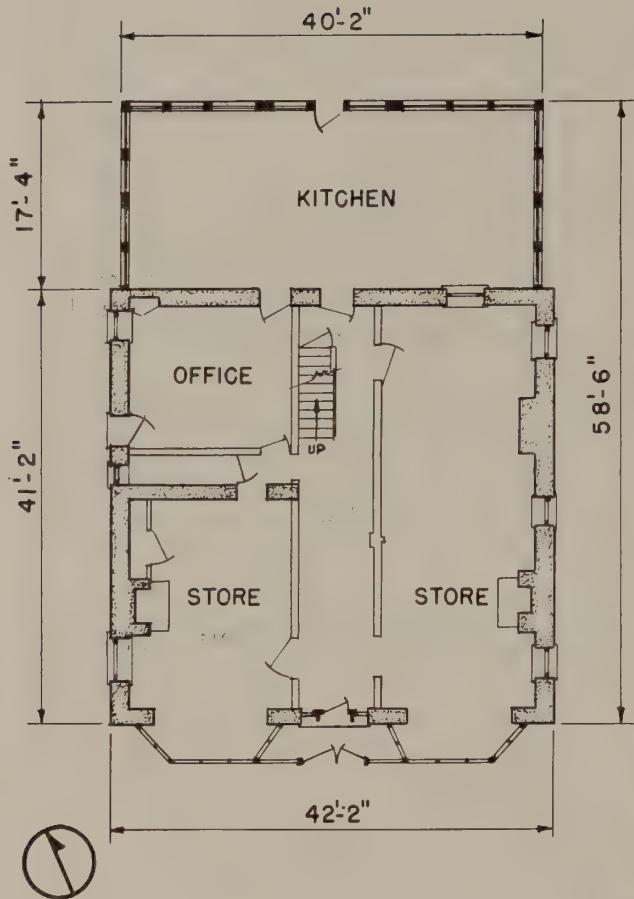
Room and cupboard doors throughout were painted in imitation of wood grain, an orange-brown color. One door has a painted inlay in each panel. Green or blue-green was the color found in most places on the chair rails, door mouldings, etc.

Some idea of the original plan of the house can be gained by a study of the filled-in openings and the kind of wood used around other openings. In the cellar hooks are found in beams and there are the remains of a stone fireplace. There had been, also, a door leading to the street. Its lintel can be seen in the front wall. Bulges on the inside of the east wall show where windows had been before 8325 was built. A bulge in the first floor hall outlines a door leading to the outside. This door and the windows on this wall were closed when a house stood in the space now used as a driveway. On the third floor the two outer dormer windows are later additions; so, too, is a long casement window in the back room which was added by raising the roof line. The former back wing, at right angles to the house and outlined by a brick wall, would seem not to have been part of the original plan. The doors leading to it replaced windows and have different wood trim.

Described by the late Joseph P. Sims, F.A.I.A. Photographs: (a) by Thomas Shoemaker, 1911, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE REDHEFFER HOUSE

8419 Germantown Avenue



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The Redheffer House (Federal, H. I. 197) is associated with Charles Redheffer whose perpetual motion machine was a magnificent hoax in the early 1800's. The house was purchased by the Chestnut Hill Community Center in 1920 and is now used as a community house.

This hipped-roof house is three full stories in height and has a full cellar. The building is of stone, the street wall of carefully dressed stone, and is 42 feet 2

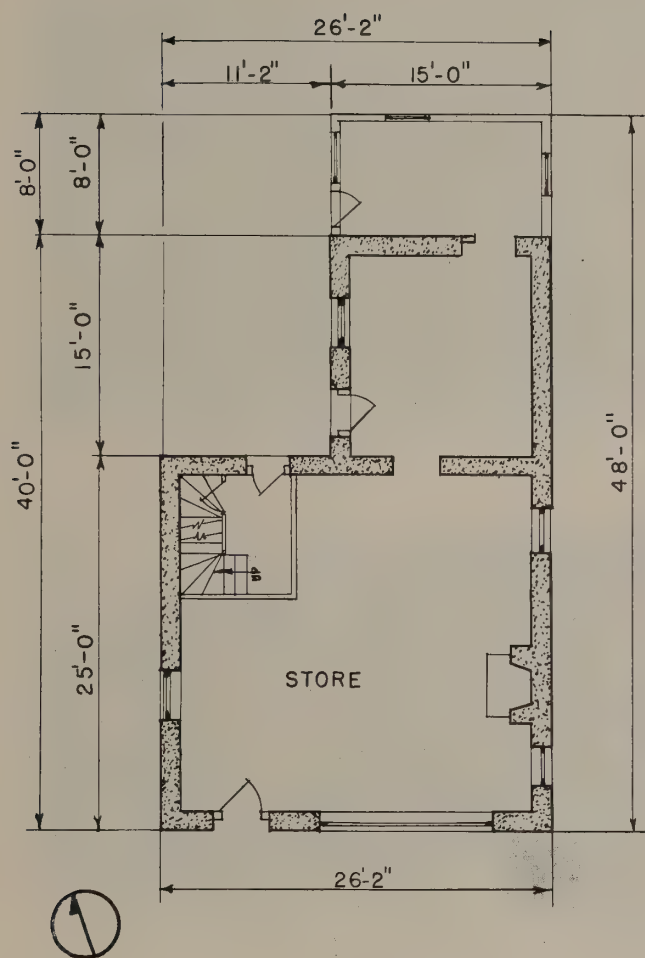
inches wide and 41 feet 2 inches deep, not including the kitchen wing. This and the front bays are nineteenth-century additions.

There is a center hall, 7 feet 5 inches wide, on the first floor. To the right there is a room about 15 feet 6 inches wide and 38 feet long. This has two fireplaces, one sealed. To the left of the hall the room is 15 feet 6 inches wide and 18 feet 3 inches long. It has one fireplace. None of the interior work remains.

Photographs: (a) by Thomas Shoemaker, 1914, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

SIGN OF THE SWAN

8433 Germantown Avenue



Sign of the Swan (Colonial, H. I. 199) was kept by John Sheppard about 1740. Later the inn was called the Bonny Jockey (1783), and still later the Stag Inn (1840).

This three story stone house is 26 feet 2 inches wide and 25 feet deep. The original part is probably the rectangular stone front; the rear wing, 15 feet square,

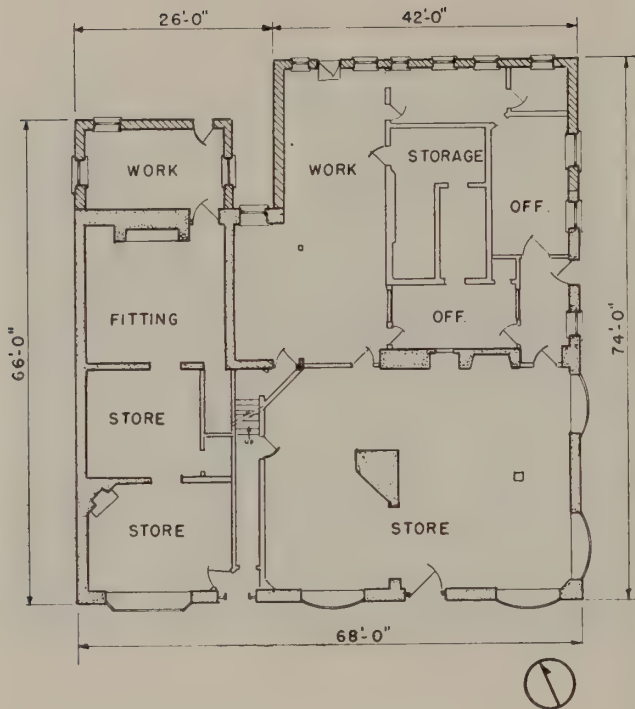
is a later addition. An oak "summer beam," 9 inches by 12, spans the house from east to west.

In 1952 the building was remodeled for store purposes and, in consequence, none of the interior work remains on the first two floors, except perhaps the handrail on the stairs from the first to the second floor.

Photograph by the Survey, after renovation, 1952.

THE CRESS HOTEL

8501 Germantown Avenue



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The Cress Hotel (Ante-bellum, H. I. 203) was an inn for many years. Henry Cress had a tavern on this property in the latter years of the eighteenth century, and in the 1820's, during Jacob Peters' ownership, it was an important stage stop known as the Eagle Hotel.

A composite of several buildings, alterations, and additions, the house is two and a half stories high and

has a full cellar. The rectangular front portion of dressed stone which is covered by the gable roof is probably the original building. The L-shaped addition is mid-nineteenth century; the one story cinder block addition is modern. In 1952 the building was remodeled to accommodate a florist's shop and other stores on the first floor. Great care was taken to preserve the character of the house during its renovation.



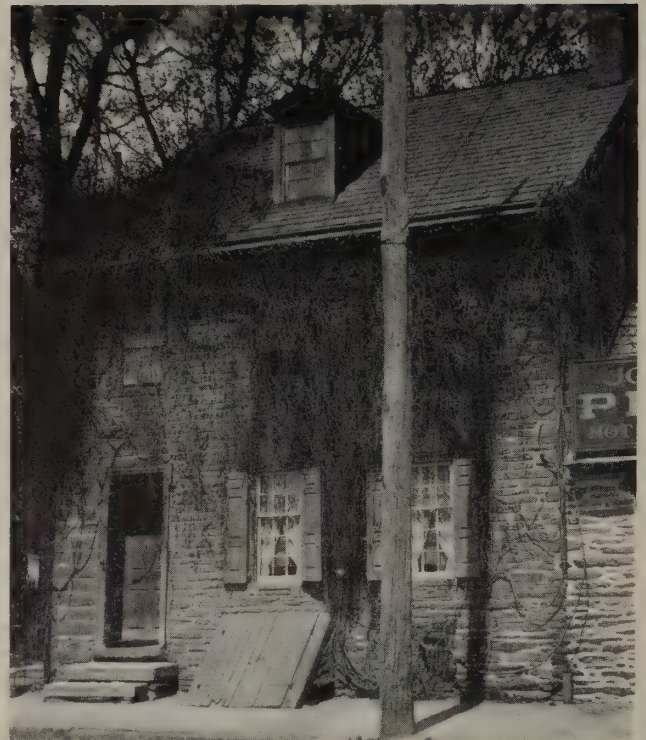
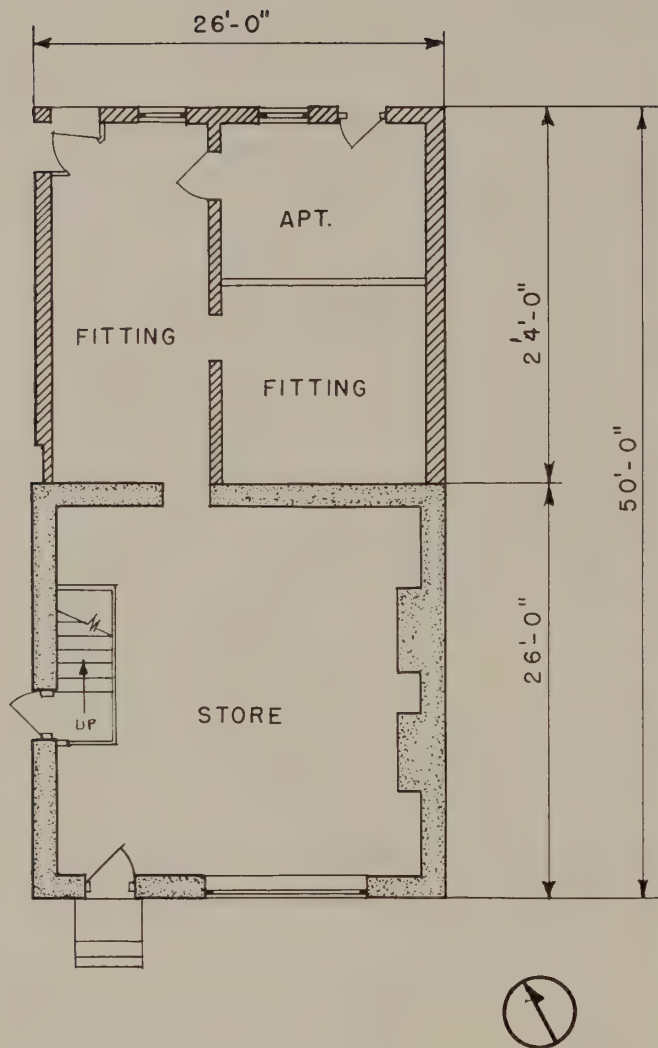
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The main building is now 68 feet wide and 74 feet deep, and the main gable spans 35 feet of the front section. At the left, there is an extension about 20 feet wide and 53 feet deep, not including the 15 foot brick extension. Because of the extensive alterations most of the fireplaces have been sealed and practically nothing remains of the original woodwork.

Photographs: (*a*) taken about 1900, courtesy of Germantown Historical Society; (*b*) taken by Thomas Shoemaker, 1911, courtesy of Library of Congress; (*c*) by the Survey after renovation, 1952, Robert C. Martin, architect.

THE ARTMAN-MILLER HOUSE

8607-8609 Germantown Avenue



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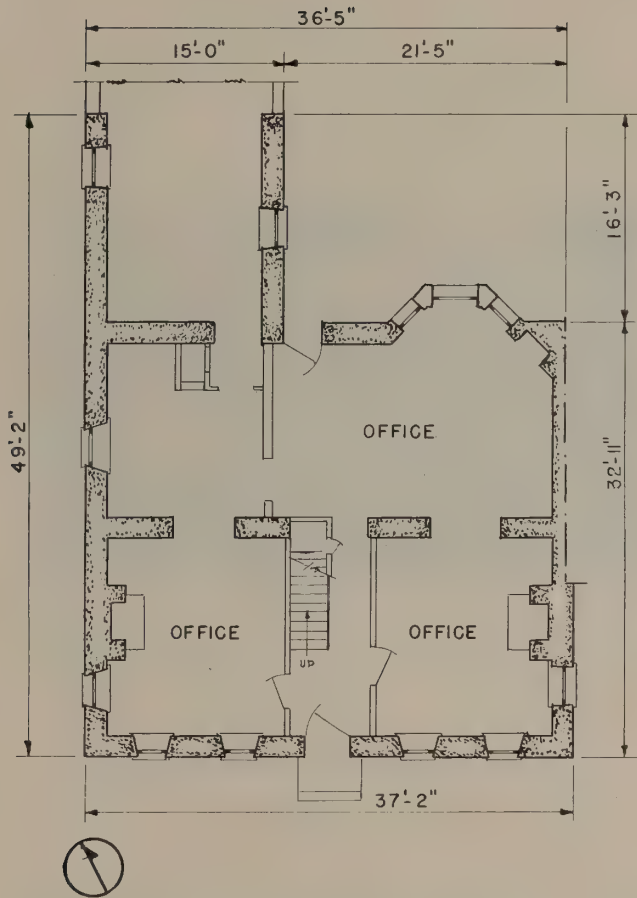
The Artman-Miller House (Colonial, H. I. 209) stands on land purchased by Martin Erdman or Ardman from Jasper Scull in 1759. The property continued in the possession of the Artman and Miller families until 1915.

This is a two and a half story stone house with a full cellar. The original part of the building is 26 feet square. The rear wing is recent. The building serves as a store and the display window occupies the space of the two earlier vertical sliding windows. In interior plan the house was probably similar to many other small Germantown houses. However, the various alterations have obliterated all traces of the original interiors.

Photographs: (a) by Thomas Shoemaker, 1911, courtesy of Library of Congress; (b) by the Survey, 1952.

THE HILL HOUSE

8617 Germantown Avenue



The Hill House (Federal, H. I. 210) is on land owned by Wigard Miller and his heirs from 1750 to 1844. In 1950 it was purchased by the Hill Hardware Co.

This two story stone house is 37 feet 2 inches wide and 49 feet 2 inches deep. The gable span in front is 18 feet, and the wing to the left is 15 feet wide. The stone work is unusually good. It is believed that the room in the northeast corner is a later addition.

The center hall is 6 feet 2 inches wide and the simple stair starts 6 feet 8 inches from the door. The room

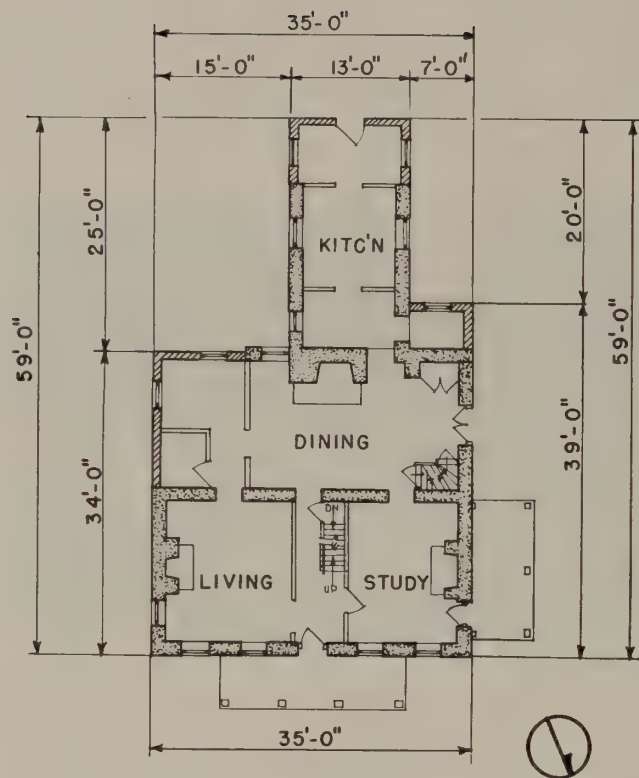
to the right is 13 feet 8 inches by 15 feet and has a fireplace in the south gable wall. The room to the left of the hall is the same size and has a fireplace in the west wall. The rooms on the second floor are similarly arranged.

Some changes have been made to the interior in order to adapt the space to office use, but a substantial part of the interior work—doors, fireplaces, and woodwork—remains.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE REX HOUSE

8840 Germantown Avenue



The Rex House (Colonial and Federal, H. I. 217) was probably built by Jacob Sheetz, house carpenter, about 1801. Previously the land had been owned by the Ashmead family, and in 1818 John Rex bought the property. It continued in the Rex family until 1920.

The exterior of this two and a half story stone house was restored in 1952. Stucco was removed from the walls revealing very fine stone work with evidences of the original pointing. The house is 35 feet wide and has a total depth of 59 feet, including the later additions. There are two cellars. The front gable (date stone 1801) spans 18 feet.

It is probable that the original house comprised the parts occupied by the dining room and kitchen. (There are pine boards 28 inches wide in the attic over this portion of the house.) The Federal front has great

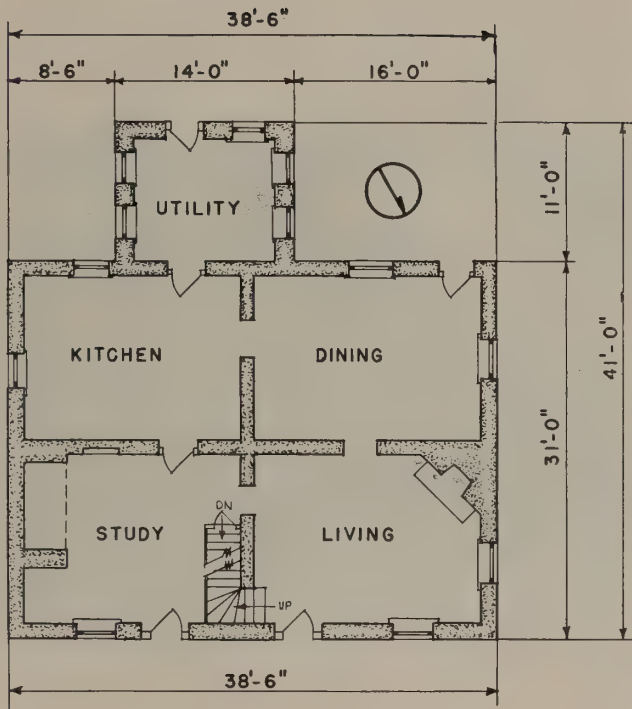
charm and some peculiarities. The arched head of the entrance door is higher than the ceiling of the hall. This problem was overcome by a false wall which can be seen through the fanlight.

The center hall is 5 feet 7 inches wide and the stairs begin 7 feet 10 inches from the front wall. To the right of the hall is a study, 12 by 15 feet, with a fireplace in the gable wall. To the left, is a living room, 14 by 15 feet, also with a fireplace in the gable wall. The dining room is irregular in shape, and measures about 11 feet 6 inches by 23 feet overall. Originally, this room was some 6 feet shorter and the fireplace in the south wall was in the corner. There is a small winding stair in the opposite corner of the room.

Photograph by the Survey after renovation, 1952.

THE JOHN HUSTON HOUSE

9200 Stenton Avenue



The property of which the John Huston House (Federal, H. I. 219) is a part was acquired by John Huston, conveyancer, in 1796. It remained in the Huston family until 1884.

The two and a half story stone house is 38 feet 6 inches wide and 31 feet deep. It has a half cellar. A stone wall running north and south divides the house exactly in half; another stone wall running east and west allows 14 feet 4 inches for the northern rooms and 12 feet 2 inches for those to the south. In all probability, the original core of this house was a small early building which was enlarged by later additions.

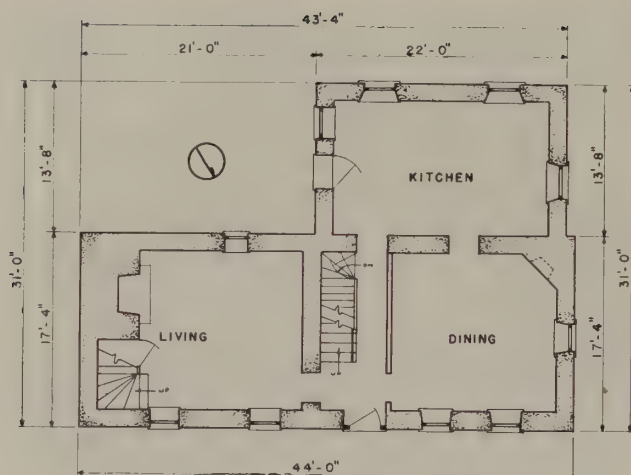
For example, the fireplace in the study has an eight-foot opening, more characteristic of the Colonial than of the Federal style of building. The utility room is modern.

Some of the ironwork and most of the flooring, except in the study, are original. The pent eave has been removed but the holes remain to indicate its position.

Photograph by Thomas Shoemaker about 1900, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE WILLIAM STREEPER HOUSE

9198 Stenton Avenue



The William Streeper House (Colonial, H. I. 220) stands on land acquired by William Streeper in 1765. The property remained in the Streeper family for about a hundred years.

This two and a half story stone farmhouse is 44 feet long and 17 feet 4 inches wide. The kitchen wing, two stories high, and 22 feet wide by 13 feet 8 inches deep, is thought to be a late addition. There is no indication of a fireplace in this wing. The living room, in all probability, occupies the original part of the house.

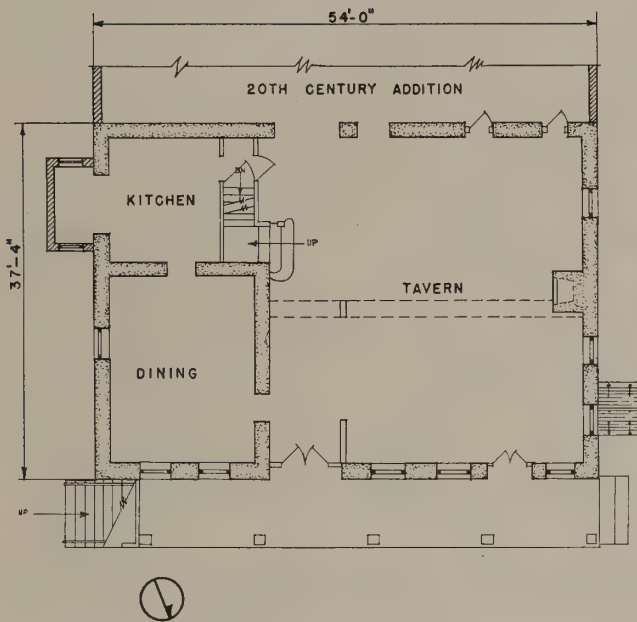
A 6-foot stair hall divides the house. The dining room, 14 feet by 14 feet 8 inches, has a corner fireplace which has been sealed. The living room is 14 feet wide and 14 feet 5 inches to the face of the fireplace. This fireplace and the winding boxed-in stair occupy all of the east wall.

Various minor alterations to the house have resulted in the demolition of practically all the early woodwork and interior finish. The Gothic Revival moulds over the front windows are worth noting, however.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

THE WHEEL PUMP HOTEL

Bethlehem Pike and Gordon's Lane



The Wheel Pump Hotel (Colonial, H. I. 221) is an old inn which has been known to generations of Philadelphians and although the two and a half story stone building has suffered exterior changes, it still retains a little of the character of an early hostelry.

The building is 54 feet wide and 37 feet 4 inches deep. On the long side it has a two story porch, the detail of which is interesting. The eastern rooms—the dining room, 15 feet by 20 feet, and the kitchen, 13 feet

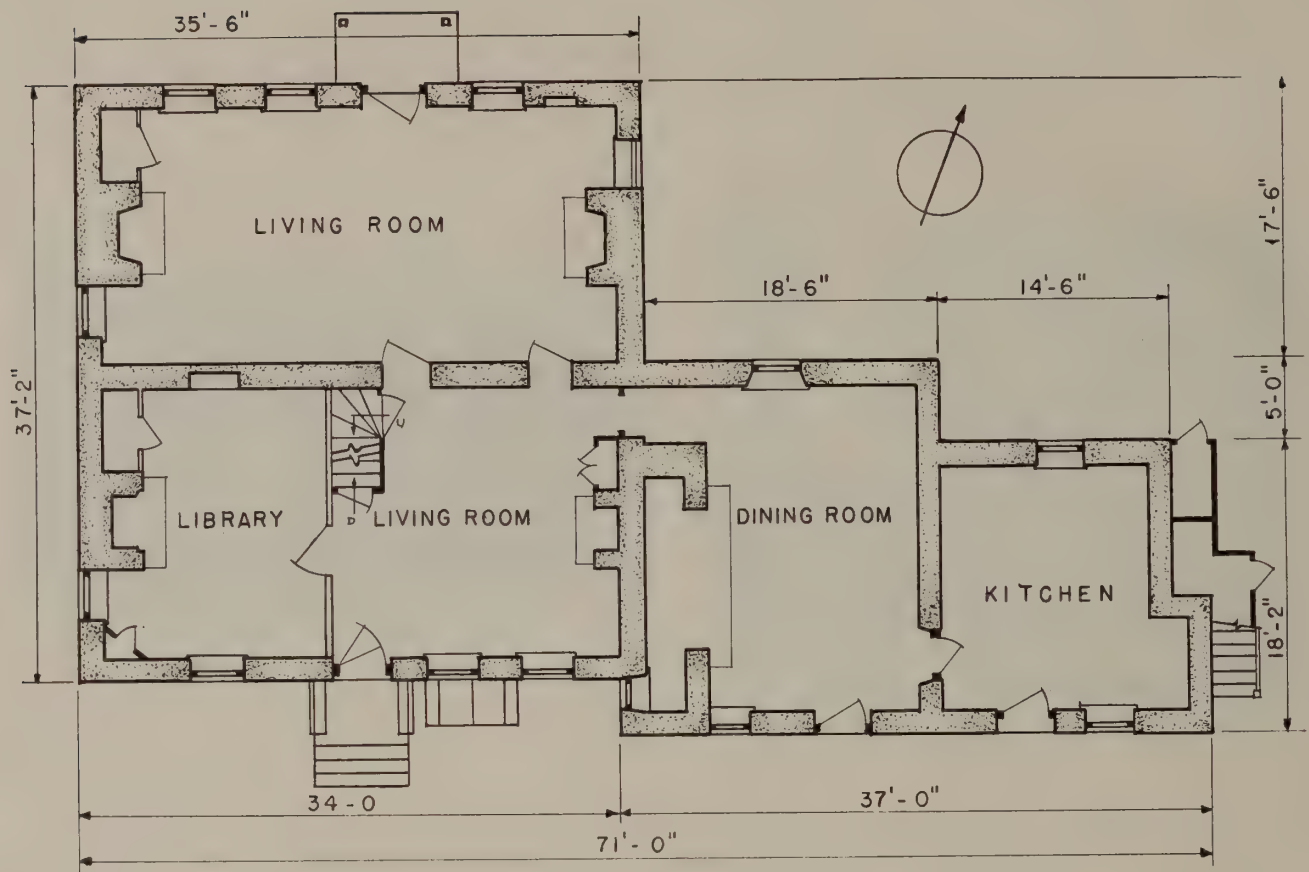
square—are thought to be the earliest part of the inn. The wheel pump is supposed to have been in the north-east corner of the cellar. There is also a curious hollow in the cellar floor to the south of the kitchen. The floor above this depression is supported by stones some 8 feet long and 1 foot by 3 feet in section.

Practically nothing remains of the original interiors.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

GLENFERN—THE LIVESEY HOUSE

Livesey Lane, Fairmount Park



Glenfern, the Livesey house (Colonial, H. I. 229), is on the east side of the Wissahickon Creek at the foot of Livesey Lane in Fairmount Park. The mill and house were built by Thomas Shoemaker and sold by him to Thomas Livesey about 1747. Livesey, a miller and farmer, was one of the founders of the Germantown Academy and a Provincial Commissioner.

The house is one of a group of buildings unique in the community. The homestead included a large barn, a spring house, a forge near the barn, a smoke house, the buildings of the grist mill, a cooperage shop, and a substantial bridge across the creek to the west of the main house. All these were built of stone. Relatively little is left of the out buildings. Only a pier and the abutment remain of the bridge. The sites of the forge, the mill buildings, and the cooperage are marked by crumbling walls but by little else. The mill dam and parts of the mill race remain and the outside walls and the roof of the barn are preserved.

The house has fared better. It is a rambling structure composed of many alterations and additions. Seventy-one feet long and 37 feet 2 inches at the widest part, it is built of rubble masonry with a shingle roof. The exterior cornices are boxed with simple moulds returning on the gables, and the roof is finished with a barge and crown mould. The highest part of the house has two stories and an attic, and measures 37 feet 2 inches by 35 feet 6 inches. The wing to the east is one story and an attic. There is no cellar under this wing and it is probably the oldest part of the house.

One of the most unusual features of the house is the long balcony over the entrance door at the second floor level. It extends some 31 feet across the front. The balcony is 3½ feet wide with a further semi-elliptical projection accenting the front door. The newels, balusters, and rail are plain, square members of wood. A door in the second floor stair hall provides access to it. The main doorway under the balcony is

made of a plank-front frame containing a six-panelled door and a transom. The door above is similar.

The kitchen, 13 feet by 15 feet, is in the eastern end of the wing. Adjoining it to the west is the dining room, 17 feet by 20 feet. The dining room fireplace is 4 feet deep, 16 feet wide, and has a small window in the south extension. The fireplace opening, 9 feet wide and 5 feet high, has stone jambs and lintel, and a wood shelf over it. On the right, one stone step leads up to the entrance hall, or small living room, which is 17 feet by 18 feet. This room has a fireplace in the east wall and uses the kitchen chimney. The principal entrance to the house is in the south wall of the small living room. The other entrance is in the north wall of the large living room. The stairs, which are boxed-in, are in the corner facing the entrance. The only other stair is the one outside the kitchen going to the attic. The library, 14 feet by 17 feet, is on the left or west, with a fireplace in the gable. To the north of these two rooms is the unusually large living room, 15 feet 4 inches by 32 feet. This has two fireplaces, one in each gable wall. The south wall of this living room is of stone. At one time it formed the outside wall of the older part of the house and the demarcation can still be seen in the west gable.

On the second floor of the main part of the house are four bedrooms, one in each corner. All have fireplaces, except the room next to the dining room attic. This room is 12 feet by 17 feet. The bedroom to the west of the stair hall on the south front is 14 feet by 17 feet; the bedroom in the northeast corner is 10 feet by 15 feet 9 inches, including the fireplace and closet; the bedroom in the northwest corner is 15 feet 9 inches by 16 feet. On the third floor are four more bedrooms, all without fire places and each lighted with one window in the gable. The stair hall has one dormer in the south roof.

There is a cellar under the entrance hall, the library, and the big living room. The framing of the floor under the hall and library is made of 6 by 8-inch joists, that under the big living room of 3 by 9-inch joists. The stair to this cellar is under the main stairs. There is also an outside cellarway. A rock ledge about 3 feet high covers a quarter of the cellar.

The kitchen ceiling is about 7 feet high; the dining room, about 8 feet; the entrance hall and the big living room about 7 feet 9 inches. The ceilings in the second floor are about 7 feet 9 inches, and in the third floor attic a little less than 7 feet.

The windows are generally double-hung with plank-front frames. The sash in the hall, library, and big living room are 2 feet 5 inches wide and 4 feet 9 inches



high, with 15 lights, 6 over 9. The sills in the library are 2 feet 11 inches, or 7 inches higher than those in the hall. The windows in the kitchen and dining room have 12 lights, 6 over 6. The sash are the same width and about a foot less in height than those in the hall, library, and big living room. The windows in the four main bedrooms are similar in size and disposition of the panes. On the third floor the bedroom windows, which are also the same width, are 3 feet 4 inches high, with 12 lights. The attic over the dining room has a full door contained in a dormer frame in the north wall.

The interior woodwork is well preserved although some alterations have been made on the third floor. The interior doors are usually one inch thick with two, four, or six panels, and raised moulds on one side, and plain, sunken panels on the obverse side. The fireplaces in both living rooms, in the library, and in three of the main bedrooms are panelled in wood to the ceiling in arrangements including the adjoining closets. A surprising amount of the wrought-iron hardware has been preserved in place.

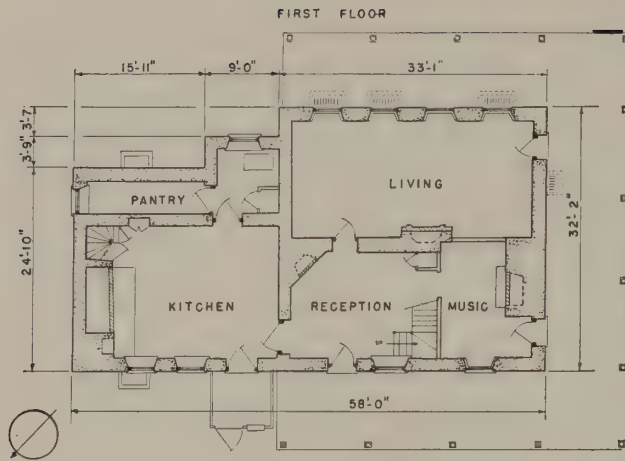
The barn is built of stone and has a shingled gable roof. It is 25 feet wide and 57 feet long, including a later addition of some 17 feet. In opposite walls of the original structure are the traditional barn doors, 12 feet wide and the same height, reaching to the eaves. The spring house is 12 feet by 14 feet built into the hillside but high enough on one side to accommodate a 6-foot door. The floor is paved with flagstones with a water trough on two sides, a typical Germantown arrangement.

The property is maintained by the Park Commission and the house is now used as a canoe club.

Photograph by Horace M. Lippincott, 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress.

THE MONASTERY

Kitchen's Lane, Fairmount Park



a



b

The Monastery (Colonial, H. I. 231) is at the foot of Kitchen's Lane in Fairmount Park. This unusual building was built, in part at least, by John Gorgas, who willed the land to his son, John, in 1741. The second John, a miller, handed the property to his son, Joseph, in 1761. Later it was owned by Edward Miller, Peter Carr, John Livesey, and still later by the Longstreth family who made paper in the mill. There is considerable difference of opinion regarding the purpose for which the building was intended. There is little likelihood that it ever was a monastery in the usual meaning of the word.

The main part of the house, which has three stories and an attic, is 32 feet by 33 feet. Including the kitchen wing the house measures 32 feet by 58 feet. The kitchen wing is an irregular one story building which

measures 19 feet by 25 feet outside the masonry walls, now incorporated in the building. It is believed to be the earliest part of the house. The main building is of rubble masonry with a coved, plaster cornice at the attic floor level. This continues across both gable walls and up the gables to the ridge. A unique feature of the house is the coved plaster cornice at the second floor level. This also continues around the four walls. The windows in this part are all double-hung, with 12 lights, 6 over 6. They are arranged symmetrically on the west elevation and with some order on the other walls. The one story porch on the south, east, and west sides of the main house is a late addition. The walls of the kitchen wing are also of rubble masonry. This wing has a simple gable. The roof is shingled, as it is in the main part of the house.

The north wall of the kitchen is used as a fireplace, 3 feet deep, 5 feet high, and 8 feet wide. On the left is an oven; to the right a winding stair, 2 feet wide, leading to the attic. This stair may have gone to the cellar as well, although there is no definite evidence of this. The kitchen now has a yellow-pine floor; the walls are plastered. East of the kitchen are a narrow pantry and a room, 7 feet by 8 feet, that at one time contained a stair leading to the cellar under the living room. This is now floored over, but a part of the stair remains in the cellar. The cellar has a dirt floor. The ceiling is a little over 6 feet to the under side of the oak beams, 4 inches by 6 inches, supporting the first floor.

The living room on the southeast corner of the main house is 14 feet 2 inches wide and 29 feet 8 inches long. It is lighted by four double-hung windows, each 3 feet by 6 feet, with nine lights in each sash, on the long wall. On the opposite wall is the fireplace, now covered. An entrance door in the south wall leads to the porch. The reception room and main stairs are reached through a single door in the wall to the right of the fireplace. To the south of the reception room

is a room 8 feet wide by 13 feet 9 inches long, the width of the reception room, with a covered fireplace and a door to the south porch. There is no cellar under this part of the house.

There are four rooms on the second floor of the main part of the house; the one adjacent to the kitchen is now a bath. The third floor plan is similar to the second but has no bath. The attic has two finished rooms on the east and two unfinished rooms on the west.

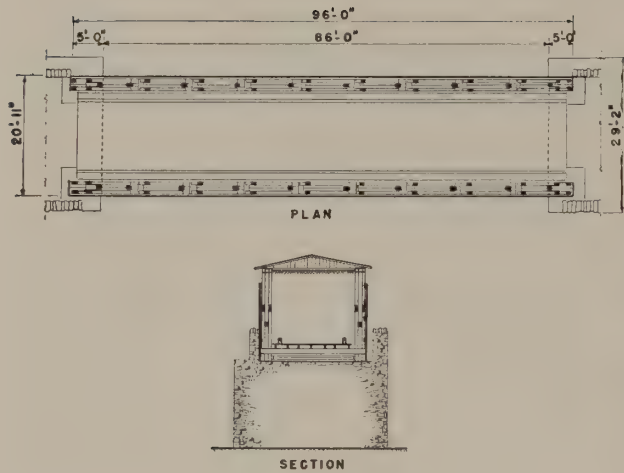
The first and second floors of the main part of the house have a ceiling height of 8 feet 11 inches. The third floor is 7 feet 9 inches and the attic is 7 feet 7 inches to the roof intersection.

The interior woodwork and wrought-iron hardware are unusual. A large part is old. Some is primitive in detail, and some has the character of the late additions to the first structure.

The property was acquired by the Park Commission in 1896. It was renovated and restored some time later.

Photographs: (*a*) by John Bullock, about 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress; (*b*) by the Survey, 1952.

THE THOMAS MILL BRIDGE



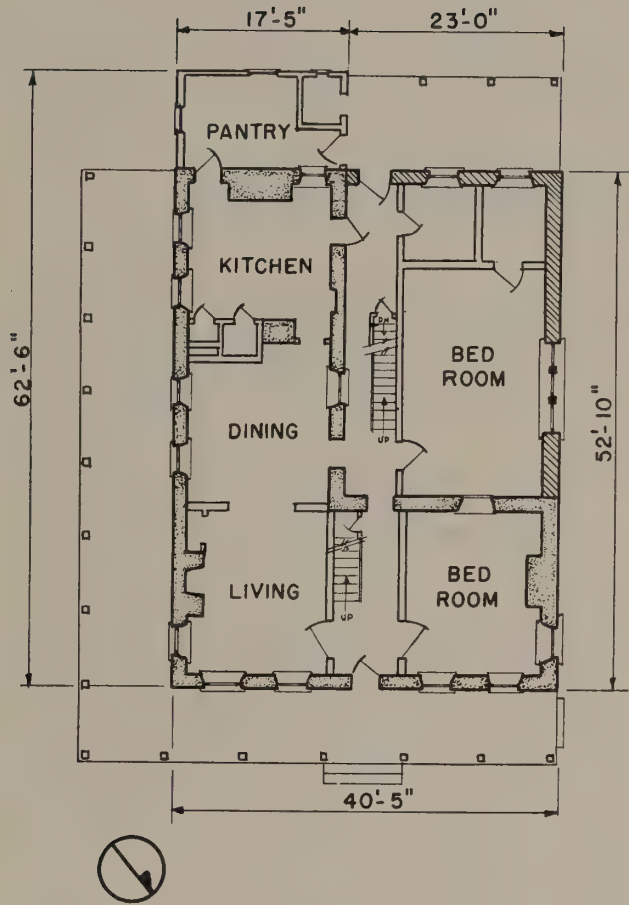
The Thomas Mill Bridge (Ante-bellum, H. I. 234) crosses the Wissahickon at Thomas Mill Road, one time Spruce Mill Road, near the site of Barge's grist mill (H. I. 224). It is typical of the early covered wood bridges once common in the country side. This

bridge was restored about 1935. It is in Fairmount Park and maintained by the Park Commission.

Photograph by Thomas Shoemaker, 1912, courtesy of Library of Congress.

BUTTERCUP COTTAGE

7400 Emlen Street



Buttercup Cottage (Colonial, H. I. 235) is a two and a half story stone house, the walls of which are covered with a stained stucco. It is 40 feet 5 inches wide, 52 feet long, and has a full cellar. The front stone portion is 21 feet deep; the east wing is 17 feet 5 inches wide and projects southward about 31 feet. The earliest parts of the house are to the northeast and southeast. The mansard story, the front porch and the southwest corner addition date from the nineteenth century.

The center hall is 6 feet 6 inches wide. The stairs, on the left, start some 7 feet from the door. To the

right of the hall is a room, 14 feet 9 inches by 17 feet 4 inches, with a fireplace, now closed, in the west gable. To the left is a room of the same size, with a fireplace in the east wall. The dining room is about 15 feet by 16 feet, and the kitchen, 13 feet 6 inches by 15 feet.

The original interiors have been almost completely destroyed, except for a few doors, some of the trim on the second floor front, and the framing of the first floor, a large part of which is still sound.

Photograph by the Survey, 1952.

PART III. THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

HARRY AND MARGARET TINKCOM

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Many of the most important of the official records of the borough of Germantown are in the Manuscripts Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Among them are the charter, granted in 1689, the patent for the township lands, 1689, and several manuscript surveys of the township. The original records of land distribution preserved in the Grund und Lager Buch (and a typewritten English translation of this) are also in the Historical Society. So is The Generall Court Book of the Corporation of Germantown oder Rath's Buch der Germantownischen Gemeinde angefangen den 2th Tag des 4th Monats. Anno 1691. Part of this has been printed in the *Collections of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania* 1: 243–258, Philadelphia, 1853. Other official manuscripts—petitions regarding markets, elections, roads, schools, lotteries, et cetera—will be found in the Ridgway Library and in the Pennsylvania Land Papers, James Clark Moore Collection, the Society Collection, and the Americana collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The tax records for Philadelphia, 1799–1815, Records of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Record Group 58, in the National Archives, have been microfilmed and are available at the Old Customs House. The tax record for 1693 is printed in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 8: 82–105, 1884.

The Francis Daniel Pastorius manuscripts, the Logan papers, the Christian Lehman papers, the John F. Watson papers, and many individual items in the Americana Collection, for example, the records of the Concord School and of the Upper Burying Ground all of which are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, provide important information. Naaman Keyser's recently discovered manuscript notes for a continuation of his history of Germantown are now in the Germantown Historical Society and are also informative. Briefs of title for the eighty-five properties surveyed in the text (see pp. 32–143) were prepared by the Commonwealth Title Company and are on file in the Germantown Historical Society.

Among the printed collections of official documents, the most important are the *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania from the Organization to the Termination of the Proprietary Government*, published by the State (Philadelphia, 1855); and the *Pennsylvania Archives, Selected and Arranged from Original Documents in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth*, particularly the sixth series which contains accounts of the sales of the Loyalists' estates. Published diaries, of which Elizabeth Drinker's is probably the most valuable; travel accounts such as

Peter Kalm's; letters like those published by Julius Sachse in *Letters Relating to the Settlement of Germantown*; and the descriptive verses of enthusiastic visitors to the province—Richard Frame's is probably the classic example—are plentiful and provide information and opinion regarding Germantown itself, its citizens, their language and manners.

The Philadelphia newspapers, particularly the advertising columns of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, the *Pennsylvania Journal*, the *Pennsylvania Chronicle*, the *Gazette of the United States*, and the *Pennsylvania Mercury*, are full of information of various sorts. No extended study of the town can be made without a careful examination of these materials. Similarly, the Germantown newspapers, especially Christopher Sower's *Hoch-Deutsch Pensylvanische Geschichte Schreiber*, issued with varying titles until 1778, are of the greatest importance. For the nineteenth century, the *Germantown Telegraph*, 1830–1880; the *Germantown Independent* and *Independent Gazette*, 1882–1928; the *Germantown Daily Chronicle*, 1867–1875; and the *Germantown Courier*, 1936–, are useful. Sower's almanac, *Der Hoch-Deutsche Americanische Calendar*, is almost as valuable as his newspaper and should be used along with it.

Among the many books written about Germantown, its houses and its people, Edward W. Hocker's *Germantown, 1683–1933*; N. H. Keyser's *History of Old Germantown*; Charles Francis Jenkins' *Guide Book to Historic Germantown* provide a good foundation for a survey of the area. For the upper end of the township, S. F. Hotchkin's, *Ancient and Modern Germantown, Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill*; Horace Mather Lippincott's *Narrative of Chestnut Hill* and John J. MacFarlane's *History of Early Chestnut Hill* are useful. For a discussion of the metropolitan area in general, see John Fanning Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia*; J. T. Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia*; and Thompson Westcott's chapters on Philadelphia and Germantown history published in the *Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch*, 1867–1875. These chapters, collected and bound, are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The European background of the settlement is presented in William I. Hull's *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration*; Marion Dexter Learned's, *Francis Daniel Pastorius*; Oswald Seidensticker's works, and S. W. Pennypacker's *Settlement of Germantown*.

Pertinent materials are found in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, both in the *Magazine* proper and in the *Notes and Queries*; in the *Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania*; in the *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania German So-*

ciety; in *Germantown History*, published by the Site and Relic Society; and in the *Germantown Crier*, the quarterly journal of the Germantown Historical Society. The scrapbooks of newspaper clippings relating to Germantown affairs at the Germantown Historical Society and at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania are worth investigating. The charters, by-laws, reports, and other publications of many Germantown institutions—churches, libraries, clubs, and social agencies—will be found in the pamphlet collections of the Germantown Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Ridgway Library. These would be particularly useful in developing a history of the area for the nineteenth century. They have not been used for this survey.

Artists, as well as historians and antiquarians, have been attracted by Germantown and they have contributed material of the utmost importance to any study of the town's physical development. One of the earliest to sketch in Germantown was Charles Alexandre Lesueur. Photostats of his drawings are in the American Philosophical Society Library; the originals are in the Museum of Natural History at Le Havre, France. Among the Germantown artists, John Richards' work is perhaps the best known. Sixty of his sketches were published in 1913 in *Quaint Old Germantown*, edited by Julius Sachse. Joseph Pennell also contributed to the iconography of the town. Using a camera instead of a pencil, Thomas H. Shoemaker, Philip Wallace, and others have recorded Germantown's appearance in the early twentieth century. The collection of Wallace's prints and plates and Shoemaker's collection of drawings, lithographs, and photographs of Germantown buildings and scenes are of inestimable value. Both are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Maps, too, add color and graphic interest to the materials of Germantown's history. Scull and Heap's map of the Philadelphia area (1750) is especially valuable for a study of Germantown. So is John Hills' map, published in 1808. This shows Philadelphia and its environs, marking "Gentlemen's Seats," and taverns, mills, churches and schools, turnpikes and milestones. Christian Lehman's survey of 1759, which covered German Township east of Main Street from Market Square to Smith's Lane, provides another type of information, listing the prices paid for the land as well as the owners' names. J. G. Sidney's map, c. 1848, and E. A. Rogerson and E. J. Murphy's map, 1851, shows property owners in Germantown shortly before the borough's incorporation with the City of Philadelphia and offer graphic proof that Germantown, up to that point, had grown in depth hardly at all since 1800. Relatively few cross streets in addition to those opened before the close of the eighteenth century appear on either map. The Reading Railroad opened up to industry as well as to suburban home owners the area to the east of

Germantown Avenue in the 1850's. The building of the Chestnut Hill line of the Pennsylvania Railroad did the same thing for the west side in the 1880's. Hopkins' *Atlas of Germantown* (1871) and the maps published by J. L. Smith in the 1880's and 1890's record this development.

Finally, the manuscript, newspaper, and pamphlet materials mentioned above have been sampled, not exhaustively studied, and they have not been listed in the bibliographical survey which follows. Even as the text is a preliminary review of the history of Germantown, the bibliography is in essence an introduction to materials which satisfactorily illuminate that history. It does not pretend to definitiveness.

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MAPS

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- c. 1700. Map of the Germantown settlement. A drawing at the bottom of this map shows Germantown from an imaginary hill. The row of houses along the main street is clear also, Bensell's Lane, Road to Abington, and Lukens' Mill Road. Original parchment in Hist. Soc. of Penna.; photostat in Free Library.
1740. Germantown Township, a survey of the road (now Church Lane) through lands of Benjamin Shoemaker and Paul Krepner. Photostat in Free Library.
1746. An explanation of the original location and general plan or draught of the lands and lots of Germantown and Creesam Townships, copied from Matthias Zimmerman's original of June 26th, A.D. 1746, and of the several districts and divisions thereof, part extracted from original and former draughts and part done and taken from actual mensuration. Drawn by Christian Lehman, July 28th, 1766. Now carefully recopied Jany. 1st, 1824, by his grandson Joseph Lehman. Lehman Papers, Hist. Soc. of Penna.; photostat in Free Library of Philadelphia; blueprint in Germantown Historical Society.
1750. Germantown Township, description of roads in Northern Liberties, drawn by Christian Lehman. Photostat in Free Library.
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1761. Germantown Township, by Christian Lehman. Plan of Edward Millner's mill road as laid out Nov. 12, 1761. Photostat in Free Library.
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BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN

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1777. Map of roads around Philadelphia, 1771-1777. Shows Germantown as a string of houses, places "Chews," "Lucans," and "Logans." Probably used by Major Knox. Ms. in Hist. Soc. of Penna.
1777. Plan of the English lines near Philadelphia, 1777, by Lewis Nicola. Ms. in Hist. Soc. of Penna.
1777. Battle of Germantown, by John Montresor. Photostat, from original in Library of Congress, in Free Library.
1784. Sketch map of the surprise of Germantown by the American forces commanded by General Washington. Drawn by J. Hills, published by William Faden, London, 1784. Photostat in Free Library from Library of Congress copy.
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THE GERMAN TOWNSHIP Survey . . the GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL Society

A MAP

OF PART OF THE
GERMAN TOWNSHIP
IN THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA
with reference to

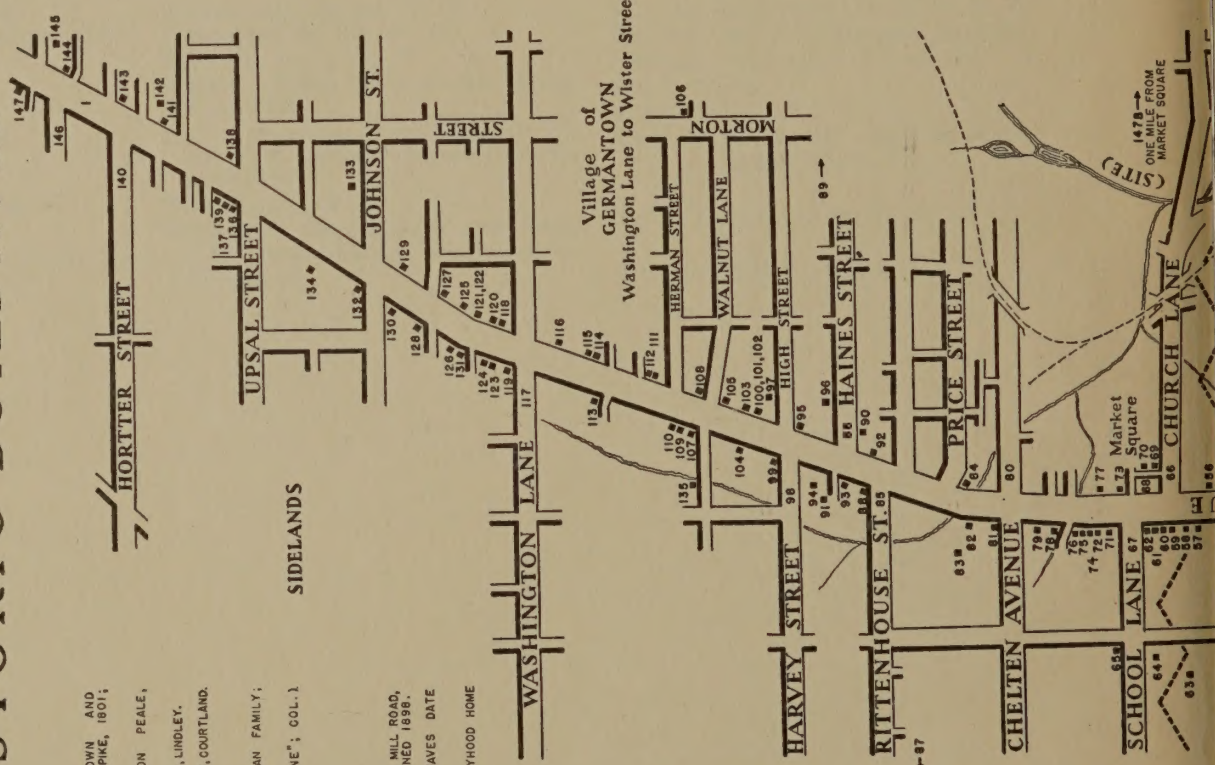
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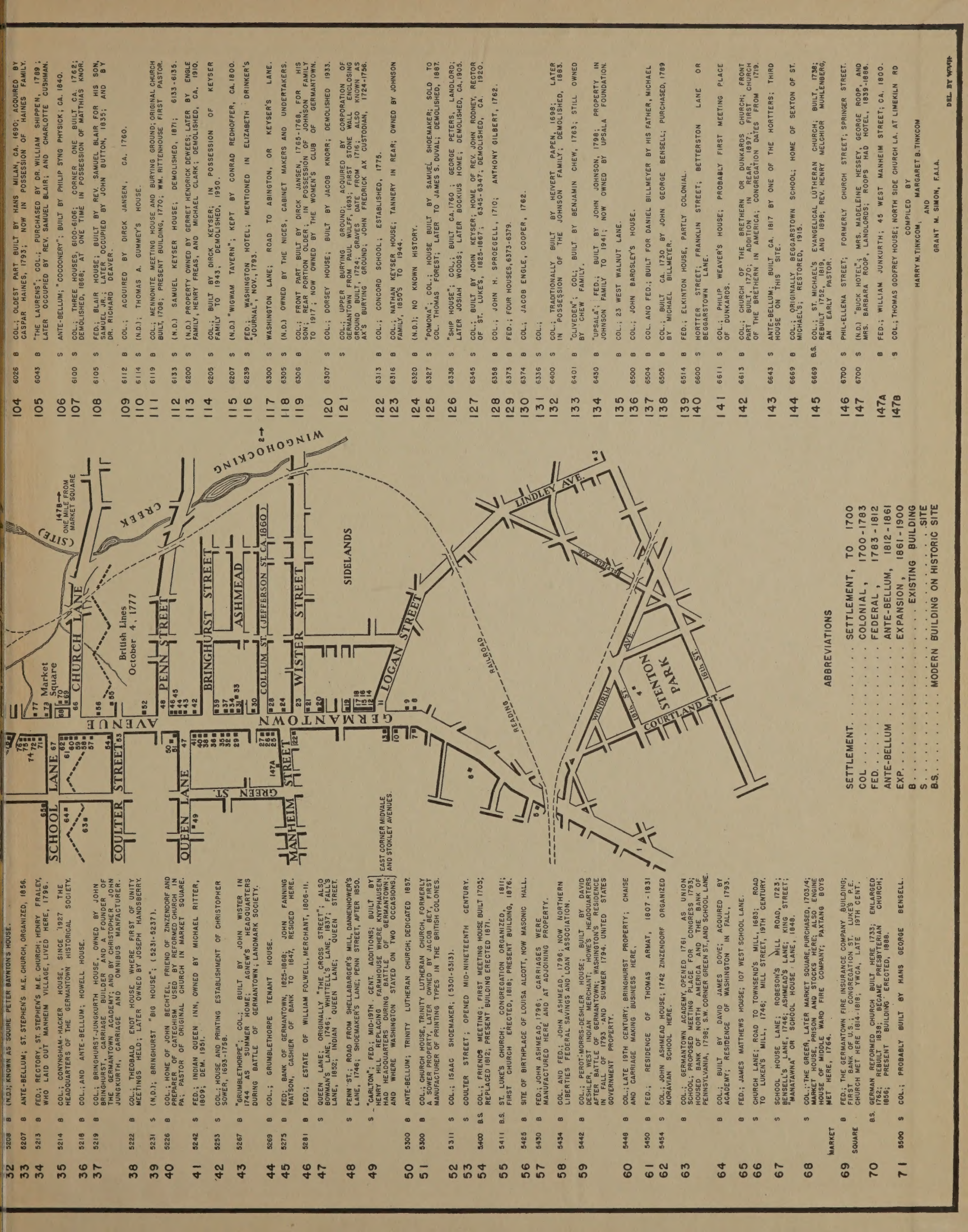


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32	5207	B	ANTE-BELLUM; ST. STEPHEN'S M.E. CHURCH, ORGANIZED, 1856.
33	5213	B	FED.; RECTORY, ST. STEPHEN'S M.E. CHURCH; HENRY FRALAY, WHO LAID OUT MANHEIM VILLAGE, LIVED HERE, 1796.
34	5214	B	COL.; CONYNGHAM-HACKER HOUSE, SINCE 1927 THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GERMTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
35	5218	B	COL.; AND ANTE-BELLUM; HOWELL HOUSE.
36	5219	B	COL.; BRINGHURST-JUNKURTH HOUSE, OWNED BY JOHN BRINGHURST, CARRIAGE BUILDER AND A FOUNDER OF THE GERMTOWN ACADEMY; AND BY CHRISTOPHER JOHN JUNKURTH, CARRIAGE AND OMNIBUS MANUFACTURER.
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50	5300	B	COL.; CHURCH HOUSE, TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FORMERLY SOWER PROPERTY, LATER OWNED BY JACOB REY, FIRST MANUFACTURER OF PRINTING TYPES IN THE BRITISH COLONIES.
51	5311	S	COL.; ISAAC SHOEMAKER; (5301-5313).
52	S	COULTER STREET; OPENED MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY.	
53	S	COL.; FRIENDS MEETING; FIRST MEETING HOUSE BUILT 1703; REPLACED 1812; PRESENT BUILDING ERECTED 1871.	
54	5411	B.S.	ST. LUKE'S CHURCH; CONGREGATION ORGANIZED, 1811; FIRST CHURCH ERECTED, 1818; PRESENT BUILDING, 1876.
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56	5430	B	FED.; JOHN ASHMEAD, 1796; CARRIAGES WERE MANUFACTURED HERE AND AT ADJOINING PROPERTY.
57	5434	B	COL. AND FED.; JOHN ASHMEAD, 1796; NOW NORTHERN LIBERTIES FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.
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60	5450	B	FED.; RESIDENCE OF THOMAS ARMAT, 1807 - 1831
61	5454	S	COL.; JOHN ASHMEAD HOUSE; 1742 ZINZENDORF ORGANIZED MORAVIAN SCHOOL HERE.
62	B	COL.; GERMTOWN ACADEMY, OPENED 1761, AS UNION HOUSE, BANK OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1798, S.W. CORNER GREEN ST. AND SCHOOL LANE.	
63	B	COL.; BUILT BY DAVID JAMES DOVE; ACQUIRED BY ACADEMY; RESIDENCE OF WASHINGTON IN FALL, 1793.	
64	B	FED.; JAMES MATTHEWS HOUSE; 107 WEST SCHOOL LANE.	
65	S	CHURCH LANE; ROAD TO TOWNSEND'S MILL, 1683; ROAD TO LUKEN'S MILL, 1746; MILL STREET, 19TH CENTURY.	
66	S	SCHOOL HOUSE LANE; ROBESON'S MILL ROAD, 1723; BENSELL'S LANE, 1746; ASHMEAD'S LANE; KING STREET; "MANATAWNA" OR SCHOOL HOUSE LANE, 1848.	
67	S	COL.; THE GREER, LATER MARKET SQUARE PURCHASED, 1703/4; MARKET HOUSE, PRISON AND STOCKS HERE; ALSO ENGINE HOUSE OF MIDDLE WARD FIRE COMPANY; PAXTANG BOYS MET HERE, 1764.	
68	B	FED.; THE GERMTOWN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING; FIRST BANK OF U.S.; CONGREGATION ST. LUKE'S CHURCH MET HERE 1814-1818; YMCA, LATE 19TH CENT.	
69	B.S.	GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH BUILT HERE 1733; ENLARGED 1812; 1818; BECAME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1856; PRESENT BUILDING ERECTED, 1886.	
70	S	COL.; PROBABLY BUILT BY MANS GEORGE BENSELL.	
71	5500	S	COL.;

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ABBREVIATIONS

SETTLEMENT.	TO 1700
COL.	COLONIAL, 1700-1783
FED.	FEDERAL, 1783-1812
ANTE-BELLUM	ANTE-BELLUM, 1812-1861
EXP.	EXPANSION, 1861-1900
B.	EXISTING BUILDING
S. SITE
B.S. MODERN BUILDING ON HISTORIC SITE

104	B	COL.; OLDEST PART BUILT BY HANS MILAN, CA. 1690; ACQUIRED BY CASPAR HAINES, 1793; NOW IN POSSESSION OF HAINES FAMILY.
105	B	"THE LAURENS"; COL.; PURCHASED BY DR. WILLIAM SHIPPEN, 1789; LATER OCCUPIED BY REV. SAMUEL BLAIR; AND CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN.
106	S	ANTE-BELLUM; "COCONERY"; BUILT BY PHILIP SYNG PHYSICK; CA. 1840.
107	S	COL.; THREE HOUSES, 600-606; CORNER ONE BUILT CA. 1762; DEMOLISHED, 1866; AT ONE TIME IN POSSESSION OF MATTHIAS KNOR.
108	S	FED.; BLAIR HOUSE; BUILT BY REV. SAMUEL BLAIR FOR HIS SON, SAMUEL JR.; LATER OCCUPIED BY JOHN BUTTON, 1835; AND BY DR. RICHARD DEVER.
109	B	COL.; ACQUIRED BY DIRCK JANSEN, CA. 1760.
110	B	(N.D.); THOMAS A. GUMMEY'S HOUSE.
111	B	COL.; MEMORIAL MEETING HOUSE AND BURYING GROUND; ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILT 1708; PRESENT BUILDING, 1770, WM. RITTENHOUSE FIRST PASTOR.
112	S	(N.D.) SAMUEL KEYSER HOUSE; DEMOLISHED, 1871; 6133-6135.
113	S	(N.D.) PROPERTY OWNED BY GERRET HENDRICK DEWEES; LATER BY ENGLE FAMILY, HENRY FREAS, AND MICHAEL CLARK; DEMOLISHED, CA. 1910.
114	S	COL.; BUILT BY DIRCK KEYSER; IN POSSESSION OF KEYSER FAMILY TO 1943; DEMOLISHED, 1950.
115	S	(N.D.) "WIGWAM TAVERN"; KEPT BY CONRAD REDHOFER, CA. 1800.
116	S	FED.; WASHINGTON HOTEL; MENTIONED IN ELIZABETH DRINKER'S "JOURNAL", NOV., 1793.
117	S	WASHINGTON LANE; ROAD TO ABINGTON, OR KEYSER'S LANE.
118	S	(N.D.) OWNED BY THE NICES, CABINET MAKERS AND UNDERTAKERS.
119	B	COL.; FRONT PART BUILT BY DIRCK JANSEN, 1765-1768, FOR HIS SON; REAR PORTION OLDER, IN POSSESSION OF JOHNSON FAMILY TO 1917, NOW OWNED BY THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GERMTOWN.
120	S	COL.; DORSEY HOUSE; BUILT BY JACOB KNORR; DEMOLISHED 1933.
121	S	COL.; UPPER BURYING GROUND; ACQUIRED BY CORPORATION OF GERMTOWN, 1833; DATE, FROM 1716; ALSO KNOWN AS GROUND BUILT 1724; GRAVES, DATE, FROM 1716; ALSO KNOWN AS AX'S BURYING GROUND; JOHN FREDRICK AX CUSTODIAN, 1724-1756.
122	B	COL.; CONCORD SCHOOL; ESTABLISHED, 1775.
123	B	COL.; NATHAN KEYSER HOUSE; TANNERY IN REAR; OWNED BY JOHNSON FAMILY, 1850'S TO 1944.
124	B	(N.D.); NO KNOWN HISTORY.
125	S	"POMONA"; COL.; HOUSE BUILT BY SAMUEL SHOEMAKER; SOLD TO COL. THOMAS FOREST; LATER TO JAMES S. DUVAL; DEMOLISHED, 1887.
126	S	"SHIP HOUSE"; COL.; BUILT CA. 1760; GEORGE PETERS, LANDLORD; LATER JOSIAH WOODS; LATER BOCKIUS HOME; DEMOLISHED, CA. 1905.
127	S	COL.; BUILT BY JOHN KEYSER; HOME OF REV. JOHN RODNEY, RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S, 1825-1867; 6345-6347; DEMOLISHED, CA. 1920.
128	B	COL.; JOHN H. SPROGELL, 1701; ANTHONY GILBERT, 1762.
129	B	FED.; FOUR HOUSES, 6373-6379.
130	B	COL.; JACOB ENGLE, COOPER, 1762.
131	S	COL.;
132	S	COL.; TRADITIONALLY BUILT BY HEVERT PAPER, 1698; LATER IN POSSESSION OF THE JOHNSON FAMILY; DEMOLISHED, 1883.
133	B	"CLIVEDEN"; COL.; BUILT BY BENJAMIN CHEW, 1763; STILL OWNED BY CHEW FAMILY.
134	B	"UPSALA"; FED.; BUILT BY JOHN JOHNSON, 1798; PROPERTY IN JOHNSON FAMILY TO 1941; NOW OWNED BY UPSALA FOUNDATION.
135	B	COL.; 23 WEST WALNUT LANE.
136	B	COL.; JOHN BARDSLEY'S HOUSE.
137	B	COL. AND FED.; BUILT FOR DANIEL BILLMEYER BY HIS FATHER, MICHAEL.
138	B	COL.; BUILT CA. 1730 BY JOHN GEORGE BENSELL; PURCHASED, 1789 BY MICHAEL BILLMEYER.
139	B	FED.; ELKINTON HOUSE, PARTLY COLONIAL.
140	S	HORTER STREET; FRANKLIN STREET; BETTERSTON LANE OR BEGGARSTOWN LANE.
141	S	COL.; PHILIP WEAVER'S HOUSE; PROBABLY FIRST MEETING PLACE OF DUNKARDS.
142	B	COL.; CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN OR DUNKARDS CHURCH; FRONT PART BUILT, 1770; ADDITION IN REAR, 1897; FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN AMERICA; CONGREGATION DATES FROM 1719.
143	S	ANTE-BELLUM; BUILT CA. 1817 BY ONE OF THE HORTERS; THIRD HOUSE ON THIS SITE.
144	B	COL.; ORIGINALLY BEGGARSTOWN SCHOOL; HOME OF SEXTON OF ST. MICHAEL'S; RESTORED, 1915.
145	B.S.	COL.; ST. MICHAEL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH; BUILT, 1798; REBUILT 1752, 1819, AND 1898; REV. HENRY MELCHIOR MUEHLBERG, AN EARLY PASTOR.
146	S	PHIL-ELLEN STREET; FORMERLY CHURCH STREET; SPRINGER STREET.
147	S	(N.D.) "BUCK HOTEL"; MRS. MADELINE HESSEY, GEORGE ROOF, AND MRS. BARBARA ROOF, LANDLORDS; ROOFS HAD HOTEL, 1835-1886.
147A	B	FED.; WILLIAM JUNKURTH; 45 WEST MANHEIM STREET; CA. 1800.
147B	S	COL.; THOMAS GODFREY HOUSE; NORTH SIDE CHURCH LA. AT LINEKILN RD

COMPILED BY
HARRY M. TINKOM,
AND
MARGARET B. TINKOM
GRANT M. SIMON, F.A.I.A.

